ELY news

Thursday, February 18, 2016
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20-page property supplement inside

Fresh plans for key city market site

NEW DESIGN: This is what Rannerlow intends to do with the building on Ely's Market Place

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Email jordan.day@cambridge-news.co.uk or visit ely-news.co.uk

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

THIS is how the dated retail and office block on Ely's Market Place could soon look.

Family-run firm Rannerlow Property Investment and Management, which owns the large 1960s building, had to go back to the drawing board last year after its original redevelopment plans for the site were heavily criticised by local residents and businesses.

The company has spent months altering the scheme and this is how it proposes the new development should look. The designs will go on show next week as part of a two-day public consultation.

The plan is to add 12 new apartments and envelope the building, which is home to businesses such as TuckerGardner, Yarn on the Square and Wood Green charity shop, in a new facade.

James Bateson, the company's managing director, says the development will "integrate and complement the surrounding buildings".

He said: "It was clear that all those who attended the earlier consultation in 2015 were united in their dislike of the current 1960s building.

"However, the public had a number of major concerns about the former proposed design.

"The former design was seen as too tall, too bulky, not within keeping of Ely's Market Place, and people said it did not preserve views of the cathedral from the Market Place."

The original proposals, which were revealed to the public in March last year, involved building 21 new apartments. Residents voiced concerns over the design – mainly the height of the building and how that could have impacted on the Market Place and views of the cathedral.

Mr Bateson added: "The new plans are designed by technical illustrator Eric Gee who has attempted to address those concerns by reducing the building's height by a storey, reducing the bulk of the building by 20 per cent, building only upon the existing footprint of the building, and implementing a subtle and more contemporary approach to the overall look and feel to the facade."

The revised plans will go on display on Thursday, February 25, and Saturday, February 27, at Ely Cathedral Centre on Palace Green. The event will run from 12.30-2.30pm on both days when residents can view the details and have their say.

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LEGEND: Jean Adamson's Topsy and Tim children's books have sold more than 21 million copies worldwide

Find more news from your area at ely-news.co.uk

Fellowship for prized author Jean

AWARD-winning author Jean Adamson has been made an Honorary Fellow of Goldsmiths, University of London.

The children's writer, who lives in Stretham and is famed for her Topsy and Tim books, studied at the university and after graduating, went on to teach illustration and design there. It is also where she met her husband and writing partner, Gareth Adamson, who died in 1982.

Prof Carrie Paechter, head of the Department of Educational Studies, nominated Jean for the fellowship.

BUSINESS

Reptile farm to create new jobs

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

A REPTILE and insect farm is coming to East Cambridgeshire after planners gave it the go-ahead.

Monkfield Nutrition Ltd is set to build new state-of-the-art facilities at Arthur Rickwood Farm in Mepal with the backing of East Cambridgeshire District Council's planning committee.

The firm, which specialises in breeding live food such as crickets and locusts, and which has the largest captive breeding programme of reptiles, such as snakes and lizards, in Europe, has been operating from smaller premises in Wendy, South Cambridgeshire, for the past 18 years.

Arthur Rickwood Farm, which is located on the A142 close to Mepal Outdoor Centre, was formerly occupied by Adas, and the site has been vacant for years.

The redevelopment will include the erection of storage buildings, a staff hostel, an office and mess rooms, a biomass boiler and solar panels, plus the refurbishment of existing buildings.

The firm says its reptiles will be housed in rooms with secured entry systems and that the Mepal site was the "only place that ticked all of the boxes after an 18-month search".

The insect and reptile farm will eventually bring 150 jobs to the district, around 90 of which the firm says will be open to applicants from East Cambridgeshire.

As it is Monkfield's intention to eventually close its Wendy premises, the company hopes that the remaining 60 positions will be filled by existing and experienced staff members.

Darren Hill, East Cambridgeshire District Council's business development manager, said: "The new insect and reptile farm sends a strong message to the business community.

"It says that we're not just about regulation, but here to listen and support applicants, so that they feel inspired to make roots in the district."

It is thought it will take around 12 months to complete work on the site before Monkfield can start to move in.

Visit *monkfieldnutrition.co.uk* to find out more about the company.

Corrections & complaints

If we have published anything that is factually inaccurate, please contact the editor, Wendy Davey on (01353) 667916, via email at wendy.davey@cambridge-news.co.uk or post to: The Editor, Ely News, 27 Market Place, Ely CB7 4NP and, once verified, we will correct it as soon as possible.

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EMERGENCY

Driver burned after HGV comes into contact with cables

A LORRY driver suffered serious burns when his HGV came into contact with overhead electricity cables and caught fire.

Emergency services, including the Magpas air ambulance, were called to the incident in Block Fen Drove, near Mepal, just before 4.30pm last Thursday.

A lorry driver – a man in his 40s who works for Manea-based firm, D and R Hankins – was airlifted to Addenbrooke's.

Speaking to the *Ely News* on Tuesday, a spokesman for Hankins said: "We're devastated by what happened. The driver is a much-valued member of staff and is actually one of our longest serving employees.

"His injuries were substantial and he is still in hospital but he is undergoing surgery and, thankfully, it looks like he is going to be fine."

A spokesman for the Health and Safety Executive said: "The incident has been reported to us and we are making initial enquiries."

Charity's special prize for a loyal little pony

GINGERBREAD the pony has received a long service award from the Riding for the Disabled Association.

The cheeky 31-year-old Shetland/Dartmoor cross has been a driving pony for the charity for 25 years.

Every Tuesday, Gingerbread, who is owned by Iris Copsey, from Littleport, provides therapy and enjoyment to people with severe disabilities.

The sessions are held at Paradise Farm in Ely by the RDA's Elysian group, which is run entirely by volunteers.

Gingerbread's award, a brass shield, is now proudly attached to her bridle. To support the group, call (01353) 662499.

AWARD WINNER: Gingerbread, pictured above sporting her new shield, takes a ride out with Iris Copsey, Izzie Simper, 7, and volunteer leader Frankie Stevinson Pictures: Keith Jones

NEWS IN BRIEF

Primary is now 'good'

STRETHAM Community Primary School has been rated as 'good' in all areas by Ofsted.

Inspectors said: "The school is highly regarded by parents, staff and pupils. The leadership team has been effective in improving the quality of teaching and addressing weaknesses so that teaching is now nearly always good and often outstanding."

When it was last inspected, Ofsted said the school 'required improvement'.

Joshua is our worthy Soccer Schools winner

JOSHUA Sutterby was the winner of our Cambridge United February half-term Soccer Schools competition.

Earlier this month, the *Ely News* gave readers the chance to win their son or daughter a place on the fun-filled half-term programme – a prize worth £100.

It was Lisa Sutterby's entry which was chosen at random and her son, Joshua, 11, a pupil at Mepal and Witcham Primary School, has been enjoying the soccer school at Witchford Village College all this week.

Crafty fun at workshop

A STORYTELLING, drawing and stitching workshop is being held in Littleport this Thursday.

Artist Jane Frost is hosting the event at the Adams Heritage Centre, in Main Street, from noon-4pm, and all ages are welcome. The workshop, which is supported by the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership, is free.

COUNCIL

Tory anger over ward proposals

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

TORIES are "appalled" by the proposed new Cambridgeshire County Council divisions for East Cambridgeshire – and are calling on local MPs to vote against them.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) recommendations propose that Cambridgeshire should be represented by 61 county councillors – eight fewer than the current arrangement.

It is also proposing that those councillors should represent 51 single-member electoral divisions and five two-member divisions across the county. A map showing how the new divisions would affect East Cambridgeshire is on page 10.

But Conservatives are calling on MPs Lucy Frazer and Steve Barclay to vote against the proposals.

Speaking on behalf of the local Conservatives, Anna Bailey, county councillor for Ely South and West and district councillor for the Downham Villages, says the commission has not followed its own statutory guidelines, that the new divisions will "seriously suppress local representation" and that the proposals are not what local people or organisations wanted.

She said: "We are appalled by the final outcome that the commission is proposing. In particular, the new 'super division' of Littleport West will seriously suppress democracy and wipe out any hope of independent councillors being able to stand for election.

"The commission has totally ignored the local responses made to the public consultation, failed to follow its own guidelines and has made a mockery of the statutory requirement to reflect local community interests and identities."

In October 2014 the LGBCE opened its first round of consultation and 43 responses were received in relation to East Cambs, of which none supported its proposals, 36 were against them and seven did not say either way.

Complaints about the proposed size of the divisions, especially the proposal for Littleport West were common, and there was large support for single member divisions.

Cllr Bailey added: "We have written to the LGBCE asking them to review their decision in relation to East Cambs, and we are calling on our local MPs to vote against it when it is put before Parliament."

The LGBCE says its final proposals follow two phases of public consultation.

The proposed new arrangements must be implemented by Parliament and are expected to come into force at the county council elections in 2017.

■ **Redrawing the borders as new wards proposed – see page 10**

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HEALTH

Lifesaving kit fitted at pool

VITAL KIT: From left: John Knott, Ely ambulance station supervisor and paramedic, student paramedic Megan Renouf, general manager of Paradise Pools, Simon Clasby, Claire Dunham, co-ordinator for Ely Community First Responders and community first responder Mary Anne Robinson Picture: Warren Gunn

More news from your area at ely-news.co.uk

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

A COMMUNITY defibrillator has been installed at Ely's Paradise Swimming Pool.

The lifesaving piece of equipment was originally meant to be fitted at the city's Sainsbury's store. However, after the funds had been raised, Sainsbury's head office said the company did not have a national policy to install defibrillators inside its stores.

The equipment had been funded by the East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST) and members of the Ely Community First Responders, with the help of generous Sainsbury's shoppers, who raised around £700 needed to purchase the cabinet for it.

When Claire Dunham, co-ordinator of the local First Responders, was then left with a defibrillator and a cabinet but nowhere to install them, Simon Clasby, general manager of the Paradise Pool, stepped in.

Claire, who also works for the EEAST as a student technician, told the *News*: "We were all really disappointed when Sainsbury's turned around and said 'no' to having the defibrillator.

"I then took to Twitter and asked if there were any businesses or organisations in Ely city centre which would like the defibrillator.

"Simon got in touch pretty much straight away, which was great. The pool offered to pay the £4 per year running costs and the cost of an electrician to fit the defibrillator, but everything else had been paid for thanks to the Ely Community First Responders and the generous Sainsbury's shoppers."

A Sainsbury's spokesman said: "We regularly carry out thorough risk assessments factoring in expert medical advice and keep our policy under review, but at present we do not install defibrillators within our stores.

"All of our stores have CPR-trained first aiders on hand in case of an emergency."

Community defibrillators can be accessed in an emergency by any member of the public who will be given a code from the call handler when they dial 999.

A spokesman for EEAST told the *News*: "With hundreds of community public access defibrillators across the region, often located in rural communities, knowing where your nearest defibrillator is and getting it to the patient more quickly while the 999 call is on-going, can greatly help the outcome when someone is in cardiac arrest.

"After a cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces someone's chance of survival by 10 per cent."

The Ely Community First Responders are keen to get more defibrillators fitted in the Ely area.

To find out more, email elyfirstresponders@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

Boost your skills

WORKSHOPS are being held to help people in the Ely area improve their online skills.

The Be Online workshops are being held at Ely Library on Fridays, February 19 and 26 from 10am-noon and at Soham Library on the same Fridays from 2-4pm.

A workshop is also being held at Littleport YPL on Tuesday, February 23 from 10am-noon.

To find out moreabout the opportunities, call (01223) 703515.

EVENT

It's beer time...

SUTTON'S annual winter beer festival is being held this weekend.

Dozens of ales and ciders, as well as food and live music, will be on offer at St Andrew's Church.

Doors open at 6pm on Friday and noon on Saturday, with a free-to-enter family session until 5pm. On both days, the music starts at 8pm and the bar closes at 11pm.

Entry is £3 and all funds raised go to the church.

■ Find out what else is on at weekend – see The Guide, which starts on page 43.

Smiles all round as new play area opens

TOPSY and Tim author Jean Adamson was on hand to open a new children's play area in her village.

The play park in Ely Road, Stretham, was officially opened to families on Friday.

The play area boasts a variety of new equipment including a fantasy Viking ship, a multi-use see-saw and a basket swing which was funded by a £49,650 grant from WREN's FCC Community Action Fund.

Stretham Parish Council acted as partner funders for the grant and also paid for the new fencing around the facility.

Janet Parish, vice chairwoman of Stretham Parish Council, said: "This vital facility is going to make a real difference to those who use it.

"We are extremely grateful to WREN for providing funding as we would not have been able to go ahead without their support."

To find out more about WREN funding, visit wren.org.uk.

LET'S PLAY: Children enjoy the new facility after it was opened by Topsy and Tim children's author, Jean Adamson, inset

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drink-driver banned

A MOTORIST has been disqualified from driving after he was caught behind the wheel while more than double the legal limit.

Richard Hodgson, 48, gave a reading of 197 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood after he was stopped in a BMW on the A10 between Little Thetford and Stretham on November 27 last year.

The legal limit is 80 milligrams.

Hodgson, of Main Street, Little Downham, who admitted the charge at Cambridge Magistrates' Court on February 2, was banned from driving for 21 months.

He was also fined £400 and ordered to pay £85 court costs, and a £40 victim surcharge.

Hodgson's disqualification will be reduced by 21 weeks if he completes a drink-driver awareness course by April 8, 2017.

Appeal after arsonists target car in Soham

POLICE are appealing for information after arsonists torched a car in Soham.

The vehicle was set alight in Cornmills Road at around 7pm last Wednesday (February 10).

A spokeswoman for Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "Firefighters arrived to find a car on fire and extinguished it using a hose reel.

"They returned to their station by 8pm. The cause of the fire was deliberate."

Police are urging anyone with any information to call them on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

COUNCIL

'£120k, thanks but no thanks'

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

EAST Cambridgeshire District Council has received a £120,000 boost from central Government – but the leading Conservatives want to share the money out to local parish councils.

The authority was given £120,705 in the form of a Rural Services Delivery Grant last week.

But its leader, Cllr James Palmer, says the authority is "not in need of the money" and is proposing that the grant is given to rural parishes across East Cambridgeshire rather than be absorbed into the district council's budget.

It comes in the wake of highly controversial plans to close half of Ely's public toilets – and contentious proposals to sell an area of green city space in The Vineyards, to developers – both to save and generate extra council funds.

Cllr Palmer told the *Ely News*: "While the grant was an important boost to some councils who are struggling to balance their budget, at East Cambs we are not in need of the money to prop up our revenue.

"Therefore the Conservative group will propose to council that the entire £120,705 be divided among the rural parishes of East Cambridgeshire."

He added: "We are also proposing a council tax freeze in East Cambridgeshire for the third year in a row while continuing to provide the best possible service to the residents of the district."

The final decision on how the grant will be spent lies with the council's commercial services committee. It is due to meet on March 15.

The *Ely News* reported last week that the council is planning to close the public toilets in Ely's Barton Road, Newnham Street and Sacrist Gate in a bid to save money.

■ Residents' reaction to the closure plans – turn to Letters, pages 6 and 7.

SECURITY

CCTV at railway station is upgraded

THE CCTV at Ely railway station has been improved.

Abellio Greater Anglia says the new, upgraded system is high definition, features facial recognition cameras and can be used by the British Transport Police to aid successful prosecutions, helping to increase passenger security and deter crime.

CCTV has been upgraded at 33 railway stations in total.

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Letters

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Stop damaging beautiful Ely

WHAT is going on with our council?
• Turning off lights and dimming those lights left – on busy roads where there are cyclists and pedestrians, all dressed in black, so they are at risk from cars;
• Setting themselves up as developers and selling off car parking for visitors and residents that is crucial for the success of the town;
• Selling off gifted land for development;
• Planning to close most of the public toilets that act as an important port of call for older visitors and families.

It seems that an interloper has infiltrated the council and is changing the infrastructure of everything that has been put in place to make the city the success it is today.

The short-term financial gain that this may make will change the future of Ely and does not contribute constructively to its progress over the years, from a minor fenland city to the tourist attraction and wonderful place to live that it is now.

Who is this interloper and what strategy is the council following that makes it think this is the way forward for Ely?
Deborah Tonge
Barton Road
Ely

Let's not return to bad old days

AM I naive? It was always my belief the council evolved to provide services for the local ratepayers. Surely public conveniences is part of that service?

If the council wants us to return to the bad old days when men used to urinate in the streets, then they are certainly going about it the right way.

Public toilets are vital not only for local residents who walk into the town to shop but also near a car park when tourists have driven maybe three or four hours in their cars to get to Ely.
Beryl Morris
St James Close
Stretham

Our city needs these toilets

I COULD hardly believe your front page article in last week's *News* ('Half of Ely's public toilets look set to close').

My wife and I moved to Ely in 2008 and one of the first impressions we gained of the city while house-hunting was the provision of ample free parking and clean, award-winning free public toilets. How our mayor Cllr Lis Every can say with a straight face that we have too many toilets leaves me speechless!

We have a bustling city with very many visitors and a population set to grow considerably as the new housing developments take shape.

The threatened alterations to Barton Road car park have already sparked local controversy and now we are told that we have too many of one of the most basic of all human needs – the opportunity to use toilet facilities.

Such facilities are a godsend to families with children, older residents and those with a range of disabilities. Visitors arriving in the city, after driving long distances, must surely welcome the presence of such facilities in the car parks and at other strategic positions around the city.

How does Ms Every expect those with relevant medical conditions to cope with such privations?

[The running cost of] £200,000 is hardly a huge sum of money in the greater scheme of council expenditure – the cost of one modest dwelling in the city. Do we not pay council tax to support such facilities? Our visitors also contribute to the local economy by their purchases and use of the other benefits that the city provides.

Most things we do in life are of our choosing, but visiting the toilet is one function which is compulsory. Is this another example of how the local authority seems not to have yet grasped the fact that enlarging the city's population requires equal attention to the infrastructure that supports it and not a reduction in such essential services?
Michael Massey
Alexander Chase
Ely

Changes not for the better

THE mission statement of East Cambridgeshire District Council alludes to good financial management and promotes the commercialisation of services. To this end it is setting up a trading company, most notable so far in the proposed development of Barton Road car park. It has, I believe, a new director appointed to presumably deliver development of council assets.

Meanwhile the administration has embarked on a programme of cultural change. Officers of many years' standing, and significant and valued experience, have left the authority.

There has been a particularly high rate of turnover in the planning department including section heads and case officers, no doubt disappointed in the decisions of the planning committee. This has led to the recruitment of at least 13 new members of planning staff at unknown cost.

Some staff have left voluntarily but your council tax has been used to 'cleanse' the authority of officers who rightly expected to have their professional opinions valued.

Between April 2014 and November 2015 some:
• £373,000 has been paid out in redundancy payments;
• £360,000 has been paid out in pension enhancements (early retirements) and
• £52,000 has been spent on ex gratia payments (extra responsibility payments, which may be recurring).

So an administration that is 'careful with the pennies', like proposing to charge for the toilets, now overtaken by closure and development, has been profligate with the pounds.

Over time it will be argued that the savings on wages will more than cover these costs. But new appointments have been made which will eat into the supposed savings and at least some public money has been spent to rid the council of staff that worked hard but did not share the worldview of 'those in charge'.

The capacity of the district council to deliver the services that we value has been much diminished as a result of these politically-motivated changes.
Ian Allen
Witchford

Axing facilities huge mistake

I WOULD like to say that the shutting of the Barton Road toilets would be a big, big mistake.

This is where the tourists arrive in their coaches, not to mention car drivers and their families. It must surely be important for them to have the facilities there, perhaps after a long drive.

The Sacrist Gate ones can go as far as I'm concerned, and Newnham Street, but they MUST keep the Palace Green ones – which I see they are going to. So some sense there.
Cassandra Rogers
Chiefs Street
Ely

Moral question for the council

I WOULD be very interested to know how the planning committee was formed, which looks at acquisition of land, how the members were elected, by whom, and exactly what all of its purposes are.

The controversy regarding the parcel of land at The Vineyards is interesting. When householders live in a conservation area, they have to obey the rules. However, ECDC has apparently decided to completely disregard the spirit of the gift which was made in 1970 and to sell the piece of land. One wonders what sort of survey was carried out on the use of it. Land can be enjoyed for itself, just as a breathing space. I understand that in the summer local workers sit there to enjoy their lunchtimes. If the costs of maintaining it were too great, why were residents not approached to see whether they would maintain it, or it could be left as a wildlife space? How much did it cost to make any planning applications and how much would the council receive? How moral is it for the council to seek to sell this gift?

Regarding Barton Road matters, we now learn that many public conveniences in Ely face possible closure, including the ones at Barton Road. There was a notice on the wall of the toilets in The Cloisters, some time ago, asking whether people would be willing to pay for using the facilities. The obvious answer to that is 'no.' However, if it were spelled out that there needs to be a charge, then so be it.

I do not envy the councils for having to balance their books, with all the cuts, but I do not like the way that they are gradually trying to downgrade Barton Road car park. After a long journey, many people would be grateful to see public conveniences available, particularly because the next ones are a few minutes' walk away.

I now understand that the suggested coach parking space would not be large enough for a normal sized coach, nor will it be able to reverse in the car park. Are we to have one small coach reversing into or out of Barton Road car park?

In addition, the car park adjoins a sheltered housing complex and I understand that ambulances are called there quite frequently. The only road access to this complex is through the car park. It is very worrying that the council is seeking to possibly hinder that access.

I hope that the council will consider all of these matters very carefully and also its position regarding making Ely as attractive as possible for visitors and residents alike.
Lesley Bishop
Williams Close
Ely

Britain must stay in the EU

DAVID Cameron said he was going to offer a referendum to the British people at the end of 2017 mainly because many of his party wanted to exit the EU.

Added to that, UKIP were gaining support and there was defection from his own party. He said he was going to renegotiate terms for the UK and then put it to the people. Why offer a referendum when he himself has said it was better for us to be in than out?

We go to the polls to elect MPs to make decisions for us, especially on issues beyond the knowledge of the man in the street. That is what they are there for, have they no idea what's best for us, for Europe and for our world, and so throw it out to the people to make the decision for them?

Mr Cameron hi-jacked an important world conference in Davros where they should all have been together sorting out this gigantic problem of the migrants from Syria and elsewhere, and he took time out to rattle on about a narrow selfish

Letters of the month

You could win a boxed Sheaffer pen, if your letter is chosen as our letter of the month. Remember to include your name and full address

OUR POLICY
Please enclose your full address and daytime telephone number. Keep your letter to no more than 250 words. Ely News reserves the right to edit material. Letters should arrive by noon on the Monday before publication

WRITE TO
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EMAIL
editorial@ely-news.co.uk

issue, when he should have concentrated on the big issue.

Is it because he wants to please those in his own party, some of whom have told him plainly they are not interested in any renegotiation, they just want out along with UKIP supporters?

He should never offer a referendum when he knows it will be bad to cut us off from Europe, destroy the EU as a force of good influence in a troubled world, and leave us without a say in the world and at the mercy of all the other big powers.

I want the UK to have a say on the world scene to improve our world facing great problems. I don't want to see us cut off and wither on the vine. The people that know want us to keep in.

George Ginn
Kings Parade
Soham

What a great place to live

HAVING lived in Ely for 15 years – our longest anywhere – it is only recently I have connected more with local activity. Not through disinterest, just frequent travels.

I'm thrilled with the richness that Ely offers – culturally, spiritually and physically. I list here a few of my most valued 'networks' and discoveries – perhaps it might encourage others to do the same.

• Ely Cathedral: This is a great place to visit, especially if you enjoy great church music! Evensong services are almost like a private concert, and there is a lot on offer, such as Alan Hargrave's last service on January 17.

We went expecting a 'normal' service – but what a treat it was! Alan was obviously a force for good in his 11 years' of service in Ely and held in great esteem. People came from far and wide. The choir was amazing – 50 or 60 voices, two conductors, foot-stomping South American music (he'd served in Bolivia) – and cake and mulled wine after. The content of his sermon (it's on the website) shared some themes with Ruby Wax's talk the previous night to a packed cathedral.

• Peacock's is my favourite place to go for food, small business meetings, and delicious cake. A real treasure! Long may the character of our city thrive with independent shops like Toppings and others.

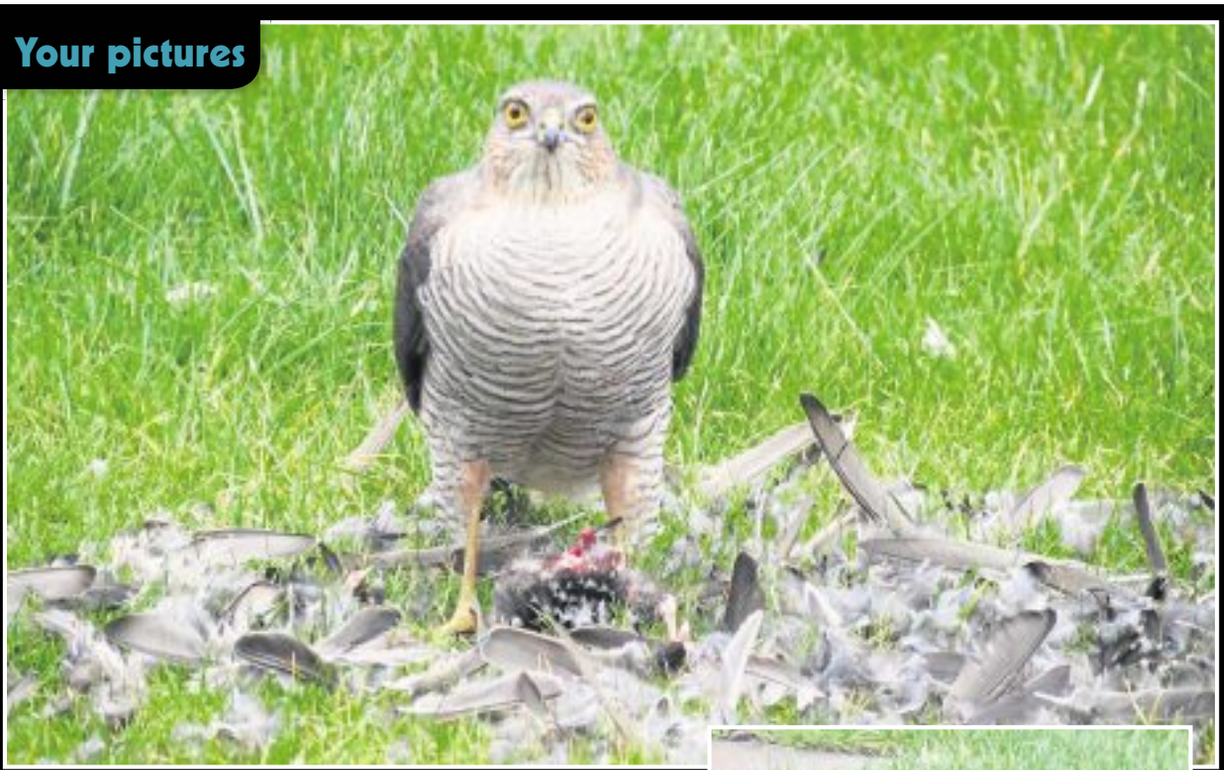
• The Ely Bahai group offers a multicultural, welcoming atmosphere, and sincere friendship to those of all faiths and none. I enjoy the focus on making a positive difference through service and connection. Meetup.com is good for local social groups.

• There are several useful business networks in Ely and further afield, including online groups. Too many to list here; happy to compile if wanted.

It would be good if there's greater coordination between civic and community organisations so key events don't clash, i.e. the cathedral Candlemas concert and the Mayor's community forum on February 2. Would some kind of central community diary be useful to integrate the strands of information? Of course, this needs to be shared in multiple ways if it happens. Your views?

Zarine Jacob
Dovehouse Close
Ely

Your pictures



WILDLIFE: Mrs Black sent us these lovely photos of a sparrow hawk, woodpecker and a muntjac deer, all of which she took in her garden in Sycamore Lane, Ely

We love to see your pictures. Send them in JPEG format marked 'Your Pictures' to wendy.davey@cambridge-news.co.uk. Please add your name, address and daytime telephone number, where you took the photo and, if possible, a picture of yourself! We reserve the right to reuse pictures at our discretion.

REVIEWS

Review of the Sparkling Valentine Concert, Ely Cathedral on Saturday, February 13

LOCALLY-born Warren Mailley-Smith is undoubtedly a highly-talented pianist and an evening of Chopin, candlelight and subtle lighting in our magnificent Ely Cathedral was a romantic occasion.

With phenomenal technique, teasing out every nuance of emotion in the melodies of Chopin, Warren mesmerised the audience. No matter how much clarity, virtuosity and skill the pieces demanded, he made them look easy and shaped the sounds so exquisitely that the listeners could not help but understand the romantic essence of the great composer.

It is no wonder this pianist has been invited to play for the Royal Family more than 30 times. Among the works Warren played were a number of familiar scherzos, waltzes and nocturnes by Chopin along with his 'Berceuse', 'Fantasie-Impromptu in C sharp minor', two movements from his 'Sonata number 2', the 'Military Polonaise' and 'Ballade number one'.

Renowned soprano Susan Parkes sang two of Chopin's songs in Polish (his native language) and entertained us with some delightful Italian opera music by Puccini ('O mio babbino caro' and 'Quando m'en vo' and Bellini ('Ah non credea mirati'). Her powerful voice rang through the cathedral and her antics were highly entertaining. Warren just managed to continue with the accompaniment as her character flirted with him while he was seated at the grand piano.

A glass of bubbly at the interval and a well-deserved encore ('Clair de Lune' by Debussy) made the evening just perfect.

Review of Viva's production of Educating Rita on February 11, at The Brook, Soham

WITH the film of Educating Rita starring Julie Walters and Michael Caine very much in mind, I thought it would be difficult for Viva to come anywhere near its standard. However, these two actors, Kerry Hibbert and Rowan Maulder were even better – for not only did we experience the delightful contrasts between chatty hairdresser and experienced university professor, we also witnessed much more clearly the gradual changes in them as Rita became the confident, informed literature-loving expert and the professor gradually slid into disillusioned poet and alcoholic.

The play by Willy Russell has many more layers than I had seen in the film. The director and producer, Sarah Dowd, explored these more fully and the audience was held in suspense as Rita struggled to perfect the art of literary criticism while the professor was frequently amazed at her unique wisdom, wit and capacity to affect those she came into contact with on a personal level.

As the Open University student and the professor grew by learning from each other, their relationships with their respective partners diminished. However, unlike all goody-goody movies, Rita and Frank remained friends on an intellectual level with the underlying nuances of potential ever present.

The acting was superb, the Liverpudlian accent a delight, the professor's seasoned cynicism contrasting beautifully with Rita's youth and vivacity. The first two-hander presented by Viva, it was a huge triumph. Exemplary sets, costumes and supporting teams also helped to make this a memorable evening. I look forward to Viva's production of Evita next March.

Rosemary Westwell

Family Announcements

ely-news.co.uk/notices

Marriages

Congratulations

Lee Martin and Christie

Congratulations to you both on your wedding in New York on 5/12/15 and celebration with family and friends on 16/1/16

Congratulations

Congratulations

Dr ABI CONE

Congratulations darling on gaining your Doctor of Philosophy in Virology

We are so proud of you!

Lots of love from Mummy & Daddy, Hayley-Jayne & Adam, Danielle & Paul, Heidi & Chris & Duncan xx

Exam & Graduation Honours

Congratulations

Dr ABI CONE

Congratulations Abi on your PhD in Virology

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Love Grandma & Grandad

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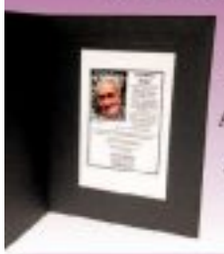

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Deaths

BANNISTER Rita

of Ely

Passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday 7th February 2016.

Beloved wife of Tom, loving mum to Harvey and Laura, mother-in-law to Sharon and Frank and grandma to Harry and Ella.

Funeral Service at Cambridge City Crematorium West Chapel on Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 11.15am

Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity may be left at the service or sent to Ely Funeral Service, 4 Tower Road, Ely, Cambs CB7 4HW Tel: 01353 666566

EAMES Jack Herbert

of Chatteris

Passed away peacefully in Peterborough City Hospital on Monday 8th February 2016 aged 87 years.

Loving husband of Dorothy, dad to Pamela and John, father-in-law to Graham and Sheila, grandad to Kate, Ian, Charlotte, Laura, Keith and Emma, great grandpa to Ryan, Kelsie, Danielle and Harriett. Forever in our Hearts.

Funeral Service at Fenland Crematorium, March on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 2.30pm.

Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, for Children with Cancer may be left at the service or sent to Ely Funeral Service, 4 Tower Road, Ely, Cambs CB7 4HW Tel: 01353 666566

Deaths

HAYES Jean Patricia

of Wilburton, Ely.

Passed peacefully away on Friday 5th February 2016, aged 80 years.

Beloved wife of the late Malcolm, much loved mother and grandmother.

Funeral service to be held at the Cambridge City Crematorium, West Chapel on Thursday 25th February at 1.30pm.

Family flowers only please, but donations if desired may be made payable to the charity The Friends of Ely Library, for whom Pat volunteered for a number of years and sent c/o

Southgate of Newmarket Funeral Directors 25 Duchess Drive Newmarket CB8 8AG.

KING Ray

Passed peacefully away at his home in Soham with his family by his side on Wednesday 10th February, 2016 aged 81 years.

Beloved husband of Pauline, dearly loved dad of Penny and Russell and friend to many.

Committal to be held at Soham Cemetery on Thursday 18th February at 12.00 noon followed by a Thanksgiving Service for his life at Soham Baptist Church at 12.30 p.m.

No flowers by request but donations if desired for Soham Baptist Church may be left at the service or sent to

C. E. Fuller & Co, 23 Hall Street, Soham CB7 5BN

Family Announcements

Deaths

SPRIGGS Colin

of Ely formerly of Chatteris

Passed peacefully away at Addenbrooke's Hospital on Wednesday 10th February, 2016 aged 94 years.

Dearly loved husband of the late Doris, dad of Pauline, Janice and Carolyn, father-in-law of Martyn James and Stephen, grandad of Melanie, Kate, Maxwell, Oscar, Cheryl, and Laura, and great-grandad of Kayhan and Nadya.

Funeral service to be held at St Mary's Church, Ely, on Tuesday 1st March at 2.15 p.m. followed by private cremation.

No flowers by request but donations if desired for Papworth Hospital Charity may be left at the service or sent to

C. E. Fuller & Co, 23 Hall Street, Soham CB7 5BN 01353 720439

Acknowledgements

BARKER Janet

Roland and family would like to thank everyone, who sent cards and messages of sympathy during our recent sad loss and also for the donation of £767 which were sent to Arthur Rank Hospice.

Acknowledgements

DRAKE Alan

Shirley and the family of Alan would like to express their sincere thanks for all the cards, kind messages and support they received on their recent sad loss. Thanks to all who attended the funeral service and gave donations in Alan's memory, which amounted to £650.00 for Breathe Easy British Lung Foundation, Ely Branch. Special thanks to the carers who looked after Alan and to Reg and all at C. E. Fuller & Co for their help and guidance. Please accept this as the only but sincere acknowledgment.

In Memoriam

YOUNGS Miriam

In memory of a dear Mum who passed away on February 20th, 1996.

Loved and always in our thoughts.

From your Son Geoffrey and Daughter-in-Law Sylvia

xx

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OBITUARY

Tributes to best-selling romance author, Mary

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

TRIBUTES have been paid to best-selling romance author Mary Nichols.

Mrs Nichols, who lived in Ely, died on Sunday, February 7 following a short illness.

She has written more than 60 books over the years, including almost 40 for Mills and Boon.

Jo Rutherford, a senior book seller at Toppings and Company Booksellers, said: "Mary will be sadly missed.

"I met her on numerous occasions and she was not only a superb author who wrote huge quantities of novels, but she was a lovely lady.

"Mary was a very popular lady and was also a keen golfer, I believe."

One of Mary's novels, *The Summer House* (2009), reached the long list for the Romantic Novelists' Association's (RNA) Romantic Novel of the Year Award and was, for a time, top of the Amazon rankings for sagas.

Dr Rosemary Westwell, from Witchford, an author and friend of Mary's, said: "Mary was a highly experienced and successful writer and we have been very grateful for her kindness in supporting our writing competition and Ely Writers' Day.

"She was an astute and encouraging judge of the short story competition, an excellent speaker and a good friend to lunch with at the Old Fire Engine House in Ely.

"She will be sorely missed."

Canadian author Susanna Kearsley tweeted: "So sad to learn of the loss of Mary Nichols. Lovely person, brilliant writer. RIP."

It is believed Mrs Nichols leaves two daughters.

Her latest book, *The Farmer's Daughter*, is due to be published this month.

In a statement on her website, Mary's family said: "This will be her final publication as, with great sadness, we announce that Mary passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 7, 2016 after a short illness.

"We hope you enjoy her book."

SORELY MISSED: Mary Nichols has written more than 60 books

NEWS IN BRIEF

Make your tools safer

RESIDENTS can get their tools and bicycles security marked at Ely police station this month.

Police are holding security marking events on Wednesday, February 24 from 3-5pm and Saturday, February 27 from 2-4pm.

A police spokesman said: "We are offering to mark your property to make it less desirable to thieves and also to help you get it back if it is stolen."

Pop into the station in Nutholt Lane or call 101 to find out more.

£470 boost for Holly Cottage and its users

SOHAM Methodist Church has donated £470 to Holly Cottage.

The funds were raised through the church's Christmas tree appeal, at congregation members Ann and Sarah's Christmas coffee morning and through a collection at the recent Churches Together service.

Holly Cottage, in Egremont Street, Ely, caters for people with learning disabilities.

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ANIMALS

Get your cat neutered – for a fiver

CAT owners in the Ely area are being given the chance to get their pets neutered for just £5.

Tuesday is World Spay Day and Ely and District Cats Protection is marking it this year by offering discount neutering.

Anyone in the area who is in receipt of benefits or on a low income can apply to the branch for a voucher enabling them to pay £5 to get their cat neutered.

The vouchers can be used at any veterinary practice in the Ely area.

Linda Hutchinson, who runs the branch from her home in Little Downham, said: "Cats can get pregnant while they are still kittens, which is why we advise that cats are spayed before they start to venture outdoors.

"Many people believe that female cats should be allowed to have a litter of kittens before being spayed, but this simply isn't true – the sooner a cat has been spayed, vaccinated and microchipped, the sooner she can do all the things cats enjoy doing.

"Crucially it also gives the owner peace of mind that you have done everything you can to ensure the welfare of your pet."

To get your voucher, call (01353) 699430, email *elycats@waitrose.com* or enquire at your veterinary surgery.

COUNCIL

Redrawing the borders as new wards proposed

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

FINAL plans to slim down Cambridgeshire County Council have been revealed.

The recommendations from the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England propose that Cambridgeshire should be represented by 61 county councillors in the future – eight fewer than the current arrangement.

The recommendations also propose that those councillors should represent 51 single-member electoral divisions and five two-member electoral divisions across the county.

The publication follows two phases of public consultation on the commission's draft proposals last year.

In the Ely area, the plan is to get rid of the Ely North and East, and Ely South and West divisions, and to introduce an Ely East and Ely West division.

The commission is also planning on scrapping the current Haddenham and Sutton divisions and introducing a new Littleport West division to cover the western side of Littleport and all the surrounding villages, including Haddenham, Sutton, Little Downham, Wilburton, Coveney, Mepal, Wardy Hill, Pymoor, Aldreth, Stretham, Little Thetford and Witcham.

NEW LOOK: The proposed new divisions for Cambridgeshire County Council

The plan is to also change what is currently the Soham and Fordham Division by creating a new Littleport East and Soham North division, and a Fordham Villages and Soham South division.

Villages such as Prickwillow, Barway, Shippea Hill and Little Ouse will be in the Littleport East and Soham North division, and Fordham, Burwell, Chippenham, Snailwell, Kennett, Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck will be in the Fordham Villages and Soham South division.

The proposed new arrangements must now be implemented by Parliament and are expected to come into force at the county council elections in 2017.

Full details of the final recommendations are available at *lgbce.org.uk*.

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COMMUNITY

Post office is on the move

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

HADDENHAM Post Office looks set to relocate – but only a little further down the village High Street.

Bosses at Post Office Ltd have announced they want to move the branch to inside the Spar shop.

Spar is at number 5 and the branch is currently at number 21.

If it goes ahead, the move will also see the post office opening an extra 64 hours and 30 minutes a week.

A spokesman for Post Office Ltd said: "We are proposing to relocate Haddenham Post Office to Spar, 5 High Street, where it would open as a modern open plan 'local' style branch with extended opening hours.

"Post Office Local is a new concept for delivering Post Office services from an open-plan till at the shop counter.

"Services would be provided throughout shop opening hours Monday to Saturday from 6am-10pm; and Sunday from 7am-9pm.

"This would be an extra 64 hours and 30 minutes a week of Post Office service, including all day Sunday and Saturday afternoon.

"The branch would open significantly earlier and would close much later every day. This would make it more convenient for customers to visit."

He added: "The proposed move from 21 High Street, Haddenham, would be with the current postmaster's agreement and would be part of a major modernisation programme across the Post Office network designed to make it easier for customers to do business, through longer opening hours and modern open plan environments."

A public consultation has been launched and residents have until March 23 to have their say.

Will Russell, Post Office Ltd's regional manager, said: "We are making it easier for customers to get their cash, send and collect their mail and do their banking because we know how important these services are to local residents.

"We are confident that this vibrant new-style Post Office at the heart of the local community will meet customer needs.

"This modernisation is part of a major investment programme, the largest in the history of the Post Office and will secure services for the future."

To have your say, email *comments@postoffice.co.uk* or call the customer helpline on 03457 22 33 44.

Customers can also share their views online through the questionnaire at *postoffice-views.co.uk* using the branch code 166113.

HAVE YOUR SAY
ely-news.co.uk
or email: **jordan.day@cambridge-news.co.uk**

FUTURE CAREERS: David Rickwood and Sonia Porter from Standen Engineering with children from Downham Feoffees Primary School Picture: Keith Jones

Event inspires the next generation

CHILDREN'S aspirations were raised at the annual Ely Schools Partnership Careers event.

More than 500 local school pupils took part in the event, which was held at Ely College on Thursday.

The day is organised by the college and the Ely Schools Partnership, and and the aim is to raise students' aspirations and help them prepare for their future.

Representatives from numerous businesses and organisations were on hand to explain to students not only what their job involves but also to help them think about their career choices.

Year 5 pupils from Downham Feoffees, Ely St John's, Ely St Mary's, Lantern Community, Littleport Community and Millfield primary schools attended in the morning.

In the afternoon, Year 9 students from Ely College were then able to talk to the exhibitors, firing career questions at them to gain an insight into the world of work.

The event, which was attended by Ely's Mayor, Lis Every, was sponsored by the ECU Trust and the Rotary Club of Littleport.

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THAI food is internationally famous. Whether chilli-hot or comparatively bland, harmony is the guiding principle behind each dish.

Thai cuisine is essentially a marriage of centuries-old Eastern and Western influences harmoniously combined into something uniquely Thai. Characteristics of Thai food depend on who cooks it, for whom it is cooked, for what occasion, and where it is cooked. Dishes can be refined and adjusted to suit all palates.

Eat Thai in Ely has undergone a recent full refurbishment and has reopened under new management with a new and authentic Thai menu. They are able to accommodate private parties or gatherings as there 60 seats in the front and back of the restaurant. In addition to new owners, they have a new chef, Mr Sunthorn Yodprathum, who moved here from Thailand in January especially to cook for Eat-Thai. Mr Yodprathum has more than 30 years of experience in Thai food and to celebrate, Eat Thai is offering ten per cent off eat in and takeaway food until February 29. (Offer excludes the Express Lunch starter and main course from 12pm-3pm priced at £7.95.)

Visit Eat Thai, 8 St Mary's Street, Ely. Tel: (01353) 969455 or visit *ely-eatthai.co.uk*.

DEVELOPMENT

Traveller pitch plans approved

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

CONTENTIOUS plans to build a new traveller site in Wilburton have been approved.

Despite objections from residents, councillors and several parish councils, East Cambridgeshire District Council's planning committee has given the proposals for land north of Amberside, in Stretham Station Road, the go ahead.

Messrs Tidd and Gray applied to build eight traveller pitches at the site in November.

Each pitch will provide private amenity space, a day room and hard-standing space for a mobile home and a touring caravan.

The plans proved controversial – particularly because the land is located outside the local development envelope.

Objectors also said that Stretham Station Road cannot cope with any extra traffic and that building on the low-lying land will exacerbate the current flood risk.

In her letter to the council, Barbara Botradi, of Stretham Station Road, said: "The increased traffic from this proposal would affect all those living on this road, especially also since the junction further along Stretham Station Road, where it meets the A10, has been the scene of several car accidents in recent years, some of which were fatal.

"Although the planned site would hold eight pitches for caravans, this could be potentially up to 32 vehicles."

Mr and Mrs B Grey, also of Stretham Station Road, said: "The site is outside the development area of all the surrounding villages and is not designated as a rural development site. Although the highways department feel that they have no issues regarding the increase in road usage, we feel that traffic will impact on what is already a very busy road."

Charles Roberts, district councillor for Stretham, Wilburton and Little Thetford, also objected.

He said: "This site is unsuitable for development and the application is entirely opportunistic because the agricultural land just happened to come up for sale. That is not an acceptable reason for allowing development in an area of countryside that has so many problems."

Senior planning officer Andrew Phillips said the development was "in accordance with the policies of the Development Plan" and that it "represented sustainable development". The plans were approved subject to numerous conditions.

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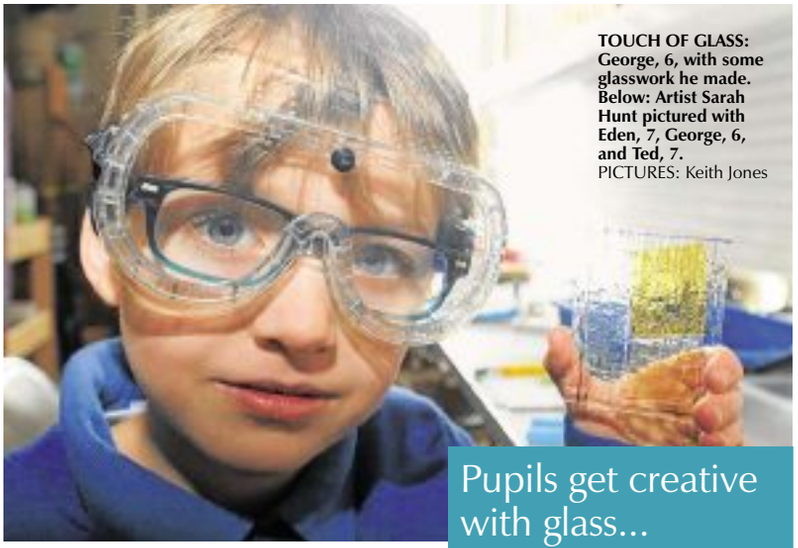

TOUCH OF GLASS: George, 6, with some glasswork he made. Below: Artist Sarah Hunt pictured with Eden, 7, George, 6, and Ted, 7.
PICTURES: Keith Jones

Pupils get creative with glass...

PRIMARY school pupils unleashed their creative sides during a visit to Ely.

Children from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School were at the Stained Glass Museum to begin making a window to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown – a designer who changed the national landscape and created a style which has shaped people's picture of the English countryside. Capability Brown is buried in Fenstanton churchyard and the window, when completed, will be installed in the Fenstanton Church Centre.

To find out more about the Stained Glass Museum, call (01353) 660347.

PERSONAL VIEW

'Why we're stronger in Europe'

In this personal opinion piece, Geoffrey Woollard argues that we should remain in the European Union. Geoffrey, who lives in Soham, is a retired farmer and a former Conservative county and district councillor. He stood as an independent, for South East Cambridgeshire, in the 2010 General Election and, in his own words, 'lost big time.' Do you agree? Share your views at ely-news.co.uk

WE MUST STAND TOGETHER: Former Tory county and district councillor Geoffrey Woollard

MY preference is for the resurrection of the British Empire. It won't happen. Absent it happening, my reasons for supporting Britain remaining in the European Union are historical, political and cultural.

Historically, Britain and its Empire steered clear of some European conflicts but we English were at war with the Spanish in the 16th century and with the Scots and the Dutch in the 17th century.

We British warred with the French in the 18th century and we became involved in the Napoleonic Wars in part because the then British establishment was terrified of the French Republic and following that, the French Empire under Napoleon.

Excepting the Crimean War, Britain avoided most later 19th century European conflicts (though the Palmerston Forts were built in the 1860s for fear of France's Napoleon III) but European powers fought among themselves and Prussia/Germany under Bismarck wrought havoc in, successively, Denmark, Austria and France.

Much blood and treasure was lost and it is arguable that the world would have been a better place had Otto von Bismarck never lived, for the German Empire, France and Russia came to blows again in 1914.

The so-called 'Great War' could have been avoided and Britain's involvement in it should have been avoided.

Much more blood and treasure was lost by all of the parties and the war ruined the British Empire. It also ruined France and it wrecked Germany and Austria.

The wrecking of Germany and Austria and the Communist revolution in Russia led to the rise of Nazism. Had the politicians of the 1920s and 1930s seen what was coming they and we might have avoided the ultimate in European conflicts, the Second World War.

After that war, many Europeans were more far-sighted than their predecessors and resolved that such ruination should never again be visited upon Europeans.

They formed what was to become a union of nation states, a union of states and peoples that had hitherto fought among themselves and against each other for centuries. Those then in the union wanted Britain as part of their union.

Britain, notwithstanding its standing in the world and its old and glorious British Empire, is and always will be a European nation, and Britain joined the then union, which subsequently became the European Union.

Geographically, Britain is European: we are not American nor African nor Asian.

Religiously, we are European: we are not Hindu nor Muslim: we are an integral part of what used to be called Christendom.

Politically, we are European: we believe in democracy and the rule of law: we are intolerant of tyrannies. Some of our European partners are republics.

We have a constitutional monarchy answerable to Parliament. (It is, of course, not without significance that the Queen and her Consort are both of German descent and Royal Assent to British Acts of Parliament uses Norman French words, 'La reine le veult').

Culturally, we are European: we identify with Athens, with Rome, with Berlin, with Paris, with Vienna, with the old Hanseatic ports, even with S Petersburg: our horizons may include Calcutta, Cape Town, Hong Kong, New York and Sydney, but old Europe is still our backyard and the basis of our being.

Much of the population of Britain can be traced back to those Saxons, Vikings, Normans and Danes – all Europeans – who crossed the North Sea or the English Channel to make their homes here and to breed with the ancient Britons and the native tribes of our small islands.

The biggest worry in my mind is not we British becoming more European, but our European Britishness being diluted by infusions of foreign folk from much further afield.

We Europeans must stand together for, in division, European nation states are headed for further disasters.

The alien enemy is at the gates again: now is not the time for further bickering over what are, essentially, trivial issues.

ELY news

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29th April, 8pm.

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23rd June, 2.30pm Tickets: £10.00

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NEWS IN BRIEF

New ambulances

NEW ambulances are taking to the roads in the Ely area.

The East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust has replaced 20 emergency ambulances and another 36 emergency vehicles will enter service in June, taking the trust's fleet to 323 ambulances.

The trust says the programme ensures that no ambulance is older than five years of age.

Taste cheeses and wines at local event

A CHEESE and wine evening is being held at Ely's Oliver Cromwell House on Tuesday, February 23.

Allgoods of Ely are hosting the event and tickets are £20. Pop into Allgoods or call (01353) 656947.

Flats are still available

LAST week, the *Ely News* reported that Ely business Peter Audus had won a prize at the *Cambridge News*' recent Property Awards.

The firm won the award for the best small development in Cambridgeshire of 2015 for apartments in St Mary's Street, Ely. We reported that all the apartments had sold but there will in fact be four for sale when completed in April. Any interested parties can contact David Clark and Company.

FUNDRAISING

Local officers to take on Three Peaks Challenge

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

POLICE officers will be taking on three of the UK's highest mountains – and the inspiration behind their challenge is a colleague's son.

Eight members of the A shift at Ely station, which includes Pc Mark Wootton, have signed up for the Three Peaks Challenge in April.

Mark's eldest son, Henry, was diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia, a rare degenerative genetic disorder, when he was nine.

Ataxia is an umbrella term for a group of neurological disorders that affect balance, co-ordination and speech.

Friedreich's Ataxia leads to reduced levels of frataxin, a protein vital for life and cell survival. It is a life threatening illness with no cure.

When Henry was diagnosed, he was given a life expectancy of early adulthood. He is now 24 years old.

The challenge will see the officers – and Pc Wootton's wife, Felicity – climb the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales (Ben Nevis at 1344m, Scafell Pike at 978m and Snowdon at 1085m) within a 24-hour period. All funds they raise will go towards the charity, Ataxia UK.

THREE PEAKS BECKON: In the mini bus is Simon Ramply with, from left, Felicity Wootton, Mark Wootton, Dan Bramley, Jack Briggs, Stuart Webling, Alistair McKenzie and Ricky Denton
Picture: Warren Gunn

Mark said: "We are all really excited about doing the challenge as a team.

"The whole shift is aware of my son's ongoing battle with a really debilitating ataxia so the money we raise will go towards a cause that is close to all of our hearts.

"It will be a huge challenge for us all and we would be really grateful for any sponsorship."

The largest cost was the hire of a minibus which the team needs to get between the three peaks.

However, Mil-Ken Travel, based in Littleport, kindly stepped in and offered to supply the minibus for them.

To make a donation, visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/threepeaks_elyateam.

COHESIVE COMMUNITY: The group is meeting at Cafe Skylark in Soham on Wednesdays

All welcome at new language cafe

A NEW group has been launched to help foreign residents living in the Soham area feel more at home.

The aim of the Soham English Language Cafe is to help people of all nationalities in the Soham area improve their English, make new friends and to generally fit into the community.

The group is meeting at Cafe Skylark, in Churchgate Street, once a week and the mentors are the same as those who run the successful Ely English Language Cafe.

The Ely group, which was set up nearly five years ago, meets at The King's Arms, in St Mary's Street, on Mondays from 7-8pm, on Tuesdays from 10.30am to noon and on Fridays from 10.30am to noon.

The Soham group is meeting every Wednesday from 10am to noon. Call Michael on (01353) 612150.

EDUCATION

More parents choosing to home school

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

THE number of children being 'home schooled' in Cambridgeshire has almost quadrupled in the last five years.

Figures released by Cambridgeshire County Council show that in 2014/15, 776 children were educated in their own home. In 2009/10, the number was just 200.

According to the council's report, 66 of the 776 children being taught at home were from the Ely area.

Almost half of the county's home schooled children live in Cambridge or South Cambridgeshire.

National guidance from the Department for Education shows there is very little obligation on parents who home school, with no requirement to follow set timetables, teach the national curriculum or even give formal lessons.

The most common reasons for home schooling recorded by the council include cultural or philosophical reasons, dissatisfaction with the school environment or fears over bullying.

Commenting on the story on the *Ely News*' Facebook page, one mum said: "I had to because my son was bullied so badly and was even stabbed with a compass. The school did nothing to help us."

Another mum said: "I did and it was the best decision I've ever made."

However, one mum said she thought home schooling "deprives children socially".

She said: "I personally wouldn't choose to because I believe that there is great social value to children.

"I'm not the sort of parent who will step aside and will remain a very active part of my daughter's education.

"I certainly understand that some people choose to home school, but I feel it deprives children socially; they need to be free to form relationships free from their parents, and grow in themselves."

In the report, Adrian Loades, executive director of the children and young people committee at the county council, said: "Education is compulsory, school is not.

"We have no statutory duties in relation to monitoring the quality of home education on a routine basis.

"We have no powers to enter the homes of, or otherwise see children or monitor the quality of their work, for the purpose of monitoring the provision of elective home education.

"This is a very different approach to some other local authorities who still insist on visits and contacts when the legal position to do so is weak to the point of uselessness."

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SHARMAN'S Garden Centre, a family business based in Littleport, has been trading since 1988, providing a superb choice of everything the gardener might need.

From bedding plants to hanging baskets, trees to shrubs, decorative aggregates and even fabulous garden furniture for that finishing touch, Sharman's has long been a one-stop-shop for gardens. With summer now here, it's the perfect time to get out into your garden and get it looking great, for family fun, entertaining or simply soaking up the sun. And Sharman's can help with its comprehensive selection of goods.

But did you know that as well as their core business, the site at Sharman's is also home to a great selection of other retailers? The Woodmakers is a small family business, run by Littleport locals Mike and Tina Woods and catering for the needs of the public at a price they can afford. "We started working out of our garage and back garden in Littleport," says Mike who explains how they grew the business at car boot fairs and on their very popular Ebay shop. He continues: "As we got busier and busier we needed to move to a larger site so we relocated to Sharman's at the beginning of the year." Since moving to Sharman's, The Woodmakers now have a DIY shop on site selling screws, nails, tools and fixings. Plus of course their high quality trellis and fence panels plus field gates, picket gates and garden structures. Mike says, "We offer standard sizes or made to measure as well as erection and free local delivery service." Their eBay reviews are 100 per cent positive and each one is glowing about their products and services. If you're fixing up your garden this summer then make The Woodmakers your first call.

The Woodmakers, at the rear of Sharmans Garden Centre, off A10 Camel Road, Littleport, CB6 1EX. Tel: 07943 013050. Visit *ebay.co.uk/usr/thewoodmakers.*

FAMILY BUSINESS: The Woodmakers now has an on-site DIY shop with all sorts of goodies to be found in stock!

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Find us behind Sharman's Garden Centre

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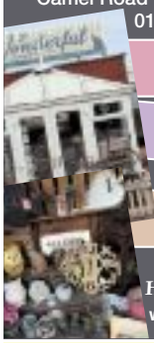

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Ely

■ Coffee morning at St Mary's Church on Thursday, starting at 9.15am.

■ Springwatch-themed children's art and craft event at Ely Museum on Thursday from 11am-12.30pm.
The event is suitable for children aged 5-11 and tickets are £3 each. Call (01353) 666655.

■ Charity coffee morning at the Olive Tree on Thursday, from 10am-noon, in aid of the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation.

■ Peter Darty is hosting Ely Decorative and Fine Arts Society's talk at the Old Palace on Thursday.
Entitled The World of Faberge, it starts at 7.30pm. Visit elydfas.org.uk.

■ The Floating Ark – the boating church of Holme and Manea is the title of this week's Fenland History on Friday talk at Ely Methodist Church at 10.30am.
Kirsten Bennett will host it. Call (01353) 648106 for more information.

■ Jacobean study day with Robert Jones at Toppings Bookshop on Sunday, from 2-5pm. Tickets are £20. Call (01353) 645005.

■ The Ely branch of the Royal British Legion's next meeting is at the Townhouse pub on Monday, February 22 at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

■ Belinda Clarke, director of Agri-Tech East, will host Ely Cathedral Business Group's Fourth Monday discussion on Monday, February 22. The event is at the Royal Standard pub at 6.30pm. Non-members welcome.

■ Jo Marchant will talk about her new book, Cure, at the Old Palace on Tuesday, February 23, at 7.30pm. Tickets £6. Call Toppings on (01353) 645005.

■ Archbishop Justin and Pope Francis: what possibilities? is the title of Archbishop David Moxon's open lecture at Ely Cathedral on Sunday, February 28.
The event will start at 6pm. Call (01353) 660349 for more details.

■ In The Beginning Was The Word, an exhibition of letters at Ely Cathedral, runs until Sunday, February 28 and is open from 9am-4pm Monday to Saturday and noon-4pm on Sundays. Call (01353) 660349.

Littleport

■ Children's kwik cricket session at Littleport Leisure Centre takes place on Friday from 1-3pm. Cost is £2.50 per child.
On Saturday there is a race night at the centre and on Friday, February 26, a psychic supper is being held.
Tickets are £25, which includes a two-course meal and private reading. Call (01353) 860600.

■ Community market takes place at the Adams' Heritage Centre on Saturday from 9am-1pm.

Soham

■ Quiz night in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care at the Ross Peers Sports Centre on Saturday, February 27, starting at 7pm. Cost is £5 per person in teams of a maximum of six people. Call (01353) 722604 or (01353) 721380.

■ Soham, The Fen and Barway Women's Institute's AGM takes place on Friday, March 4.
Amanda Sutherland will also talk about Accessories Boutique at the meeting at Millbrook House at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

Sutton

■ Local band Iron Fist will be performing at the Brooklands Centre on Saturday, February 27. Call (01353) 778330 for more information.

Welney

■ Daily commentated swan feeds at WWT Welney at 3.30pm. Floodlit feeds, 6.30pm, Thurs-Sun. Guided hare walks on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Call (01353) 860711.

WARM WELCOME: Ely Mayor Lis Every is inviting everyone to her charity ball

All invited to Mayor's Spring Ball

RESIDENTS are invited to attend the Mayor's Spring Ball in Ely next month.

The fundraising evening is being held at The Maltings on Saturday, March 5, from 7.30pm to midnight. There will be a four-course dinner, dancing to local band Decades, an auction and a tombola.

Tickets are £39.50 and money raised will go towards supporting local volunteers through Voluntary and Community Action for East Cambridgeshire. For tickets, call (01353) 661016.

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*Book by 29 February 2016. Please quote code 3MGKU9. £10 reduction is off the price shown above. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

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Dentist's £750,000 refurb

A DENTAL surgery in Ely has undergone a £750,000 refurbishment.

The owners of Enhance Dental Clinic, in St Mary's Street, say the major revamp of its infrastructure and equipment provides Ely with the first multi-disciplinary dental referral service in North Cambridgeshire.

The clinic now offers patients six state-of-the-art surgeries, as well as a teaching suite to continue providing support and mentorship to local dentists.

Patients will no longer need to travel to Cambridge, or further afield, for treatment referrals from local practices, as Enhance's newly-expanded clinic includes dental rehabilitation, implants, gum disease treatment, root canal therapy, orthodontics and other complicated treatment, as well as general dentistry.

The firm has also taken on a new dentist, Dr Noemi Banhidi. Visit enhancedentalspa.co.uk.

CREATIVE: Sarah Ruff with one of her new puffin-themed designs

Decor firm's new puffin range

A RECENT trip to Iceland is the inspiration behind an Ely businesswoman's latest designs.

Screen printing artist Sarah Ruff, the founder of Fabfabs Ely, has launched a range of puffin designs to add to her business' homeware and accessories.

Sarah started Fabfabs Ely in 2012 after completing a screen printing course at Cottenham Village College.

She designs and cuts all of her own stencils to ensure that each finished item is unique and her designs are inspired by her travels abroad, and along the Norfolk Coast.

Sarah said: "I love wildlife and the puffins were irresistible. I have received some lovely comments on the new puffin range and children particularly seem to be drawn to them. The great thing is all of my creations are also machine washable."

Visit fabfabsely.co.uk.

Get advice – for free

A FREE pop-up business event is being held in Ely next month.

The Signpost 2 Grow Pop-Up Business Surgery takes place at The Maltings on Tuesday, March 8, and all local business owners are invited.

Specialist advisers from Price Bailey accountants, Face 2 Face HR, Metro Bank and Signpost 2 Grow will be on hand to advise on HR, finance and accountancy, and business planning.

Companies can book a free 20-minute appointment with any adviser, or all advisers, to discuss any professional matter they have, from how to retain staff to putting in place a strong business plan for growth.

The event is being organised by Signpost 2 Grow, the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership (LEP)'s new business support service.

Neil Darwin, chief executive of the LEP, told the *News*: "Helping businesses to grow is an incredibly important part of the work we do here at the LEP.

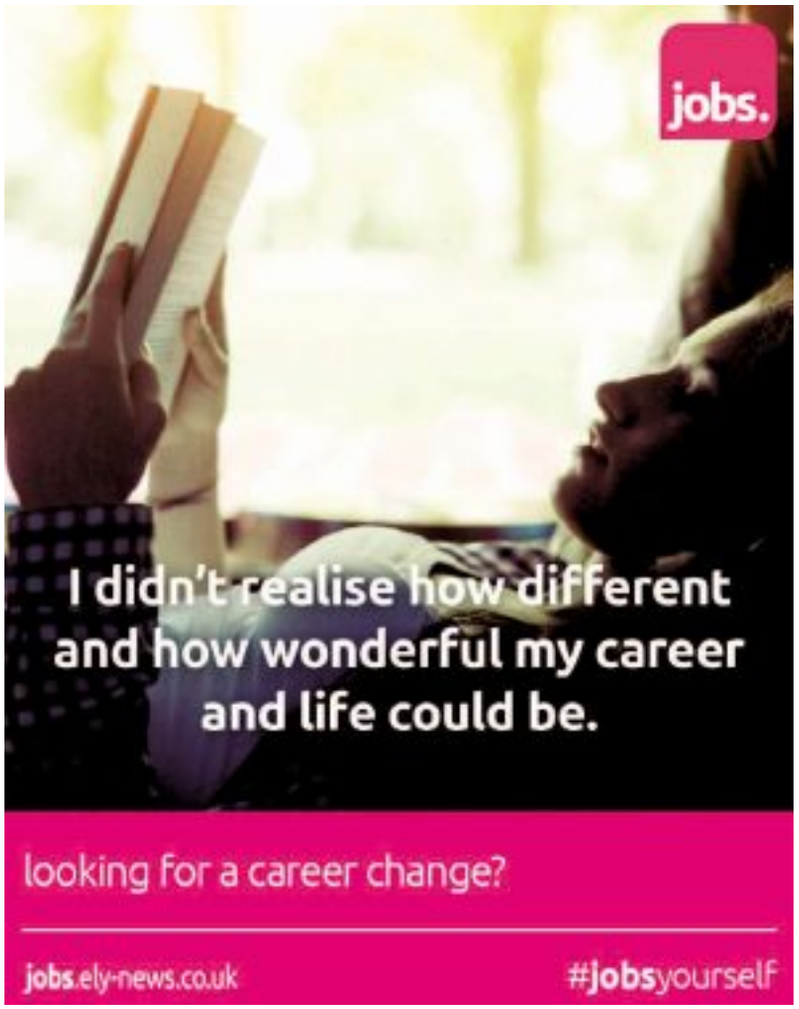
"By offering free business advice from our Signpost 2 Grow team, and fellow professionals from the local area, we can answer any number of questions our local businesses have that they feel are holding them back.

"It's the first time we have run such an event in Ely, and if it proves popular it could become a regular feature on the business calendar.

"I would therefore encourage businesses to take 20 minutes out of their day to visit one of our advisers to find out how we can support the growth of your business."

The event will run from 8.30am until noon and appointment times will be given on a first-come first-serve basis.

To book your place at the event, or to find out more, call (01353) 440150, email hello@signpost2grow.co.uk or visit signpost2grow.co.uk.



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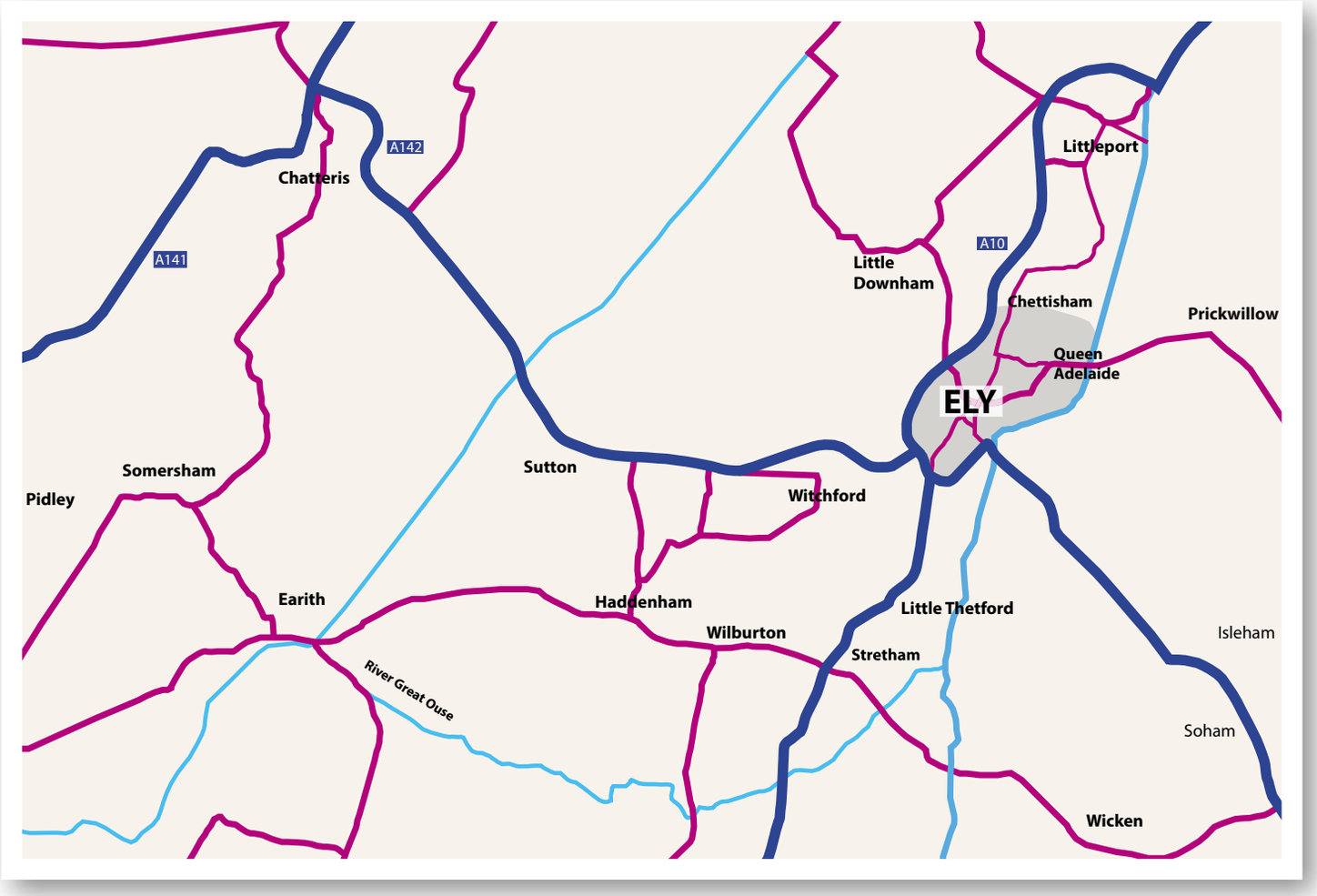

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Soham £395,000

Spacious detached property situated in one of Sohams premier locations.Situated close to the High Street and Village College. Master bedroom with ensuite, three further bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen/breakfast room, utility,two reception rooms. Double garage. EPC rating D. NO ONWARD CHAIN.

Soham £187,000

A three bedroom semi detached house in need of some general updating. The property does benefit from double glazing ,gas radiator heating, conservatory, garage at rear. EPC rating E.

Soham £295,000

Five bedroom detached town house close to centre of town and St Andrews School. The property comprises of open plan lounge/kitchen/diner, family room, cloakroom, five bedrooms, two en-suite, family shower room, enclosed rear garden, gas heating. Single garage. EPC rating C.

Soham £122,500

A semi detached bungalow situated on a popular over 55's residential development in Soham with accommodation offering entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, conservatory, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property benefits from electric heating and allocated parking space. EPC Rating: D.

Soham £169,950

A two bedroom, three reception room extended semi detached house in need of modernisation.gas radiator heating and double glazing, a range of outbuildings and a garage to the rear of the property. EPC Rating D. ALL VIEWINGS NEED TO TAKE PLACE IN DAYLIGHT HOURS.

Soham £99,995

A two bedroom first floor apartment forming part of this popular over 55's development. The accommodation in brief comprises, entrance hall with stairs to first floor landing, two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and bathroom, allocated parking space. EPC rating D. No Onward Chain.

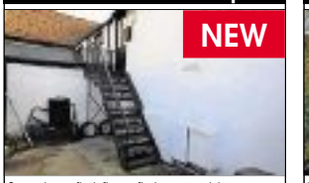
Soham Guide Price £280,000

A brand new three bedroom detached house situated in a quiet cul de sac location within the market town of Soham close to local schools and amenities. The accommodation in brief comprises, entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen / breakfast room, first floor landing, three bedrooms and a family bathroom. EPC rating tbc .

Soham £235,000

A four bedroom semi detached townhouse.The accommodation in brief comprises, entrance hall, down stairs cloak room, lounge, kitchen breakfast room, master bedroom with en suite, three further bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, garage and additional parking space. EPC Rating: B.

Soham £550 pcm



Spacious first floor flat comprising lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. Gas heating. EPC rating C. Available immediately. Tenant fees apply.

Soham £1,250 pcm

No Application Fees for USAF. Viewings 9am -7pm 7 days a week. Detached bungalow set back from the road in the popular town of Soham, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, three bedrooms with ensuite shower room, family bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and gas central heating. Garage and driveway parking. EPC rating: E.Tenant fees apply.

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*Letting fees apply, contact us for more details. No application fees for USAF.

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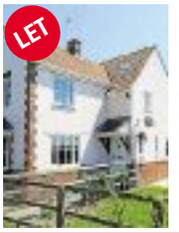
ELY £1,000 pcm

A 3 bedroom semi detached house. Kitchen/diner with gas hob, electric oven, fridge freezer, dishwasher & space for washing machine. Lounge with French doors leading out to rear garden. Bathroom with white suite. Bedroom 1 with En-Suite Shower. Enclosed rear garden, patio area, shed & allocated parking. EPC Band B (83)

PYMOOR £1,350 pcm



Detached 5 bedroom house set in a rural location. Kitchen with range gas cooker & electric oven & fridge. Utility room. Lounge with wood burner & carpet. Dining room. Cloakroom. Bedroom 1 with shower en suite. Family bathroom with white suite. Bedroom 5 on 2nd floor with en suite. Enclosed rear garden & patio with additional paddock. Ample off road parking. Pets are allowed.EPC Band E

ELY £725-£880 pcm

A BRAND NEW modern 2nd floor flat situated in the centre of Ely city centre. On entrance & into wide corridor leading to open plan kitchen/ lounge. Kitchen with base & wall units housing electric hob, electric oven, fridge/freezer, slim dishwasher & washer/dryer. Bathroom with 3 piece white suite with velux window. Gas central heating. Water rates included. Area to store bikes.

SUTTON £800 pcm

A tastefully modernised three bedroom semi-detached town house. Natural wood flooring throughout. Accommodation comprises of large Kitchen/diner with built in fridge/ freezer, oven and hob. Utility room, Cloakroom, Bedroom 1 with en suite, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden with shed and parking for two cars. EPC band E (48)

ELY £1,295 pcm

A well presented modern four bedroom semi detached Townhouse. Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room with cooker, integrated dishwasher & fridge freezer, Utility Room, Bed 1 with fitted wardrobes, En Suite shower room with tiled flooring, Bed 2 with fitted wardrobes. Family Bathroom. Decking to rear garden, single garage. EPC band C (77).

ELY £725-£880 pcm

A BRAND NEW modern 2nd floor apartment situated in the centre of Ely city centre. The property comprises open plan kitchen/ lounge. Kitchen including electric hob, electric oven, fridge/freezer, dishwasher & washer/dryer. Bathroom with white 4 piece suite. views over Ely city centre. Central heating. Water rates included. Bicycle storage area. EPC awaited

LITTLEPORT £850 pcm

A semi detached three bedroom Bungalow currently under refurbishment. On entrance off a wide Hallway is Bedroom with new En Suite. Family Bathroom with shower over bath. Kitchen/ Breakfast Room opening into Lounge. Utility Room with single door to rear garden. Gas central heating throughout. Ample off road parking. EPC Band (67)

HADDENHAM £780 pcm

A detached 2 bedroom bungalow set in a cul de sac location. Kitchen/ breakfast room with single door to rear garden. Lounge with patio doors to Conservatory & French doors leading out to rear garden. Bedroom 1 with built in wardrobes. Bathroom with shower over bath. Enclosed rear garden with shed, single garage with parking. Front garden area. EPC awaited..

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Cover property

Littleport: £850pcm

THIS modern three bedroom property in Yeomans Way on the prestigious Highfields development in Littleport is available to rent for £850pcm.
The property has accommodation including a downstairs cloakroom, a good-size sitting room with wood laminate flooring and a large kitchen/dining area.
Upstairs there is a master bedroom with dressing area and en suite shower room, a further double bedroom, a single bedroom and a family bathroom.
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FORDHAM £180,000

Modern semi-detached two bedroom house situated in a popular village with easy access to Ely, Newmarket and the A14.

2 1 1 EPC D 57 sq m

SUTTON £450,000

A rare opportunity to acquire an exceptionally well presented, 4 bedroom, detached family home situated in an exclusive small development.

2 4 3 2 EPC E 160 sq m

WICKEN £650,000

An opportunity to purchase a bespoke and substantial detached residence which lies in an exclusive small cul-de-sac setting backing onto farmland just off one of the village greens.

1 5 1 4 EPC tb 315 sq m

ELY £430,000

A particularly well appointed and recently extended five bedroom detached family home which is situated in a highly sought after modern development.

135 sq m 1 5 1 2 EPC D

ELY £375,000

A spacious well appointed three bedroom detached bungalow which lies in a lovely position towards the end of a no-through road a little over a mile from the city centre.

113 sq m 1 3 2 2 EPC D

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SUTTON £259,950

An extended four bedroom family home presented in good condition throughout and situated on a popular development.

115 sq m | 4 | 1 | 2 | EPC C

ELY £450,000

A substantial five bedroom, three bathroom, three storey detached residence which lies in a sought after City location.

171 sq m | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | EPC C

ELY £274,950

A well presented three double bedroom modern town house overlooking parkland and situated in a much sought after development on the outskirts of Ely

3 | 1 | 2 | EPC C | 105sq m

ELY £289,950

A beautifully presented three double bedroom home with open plan living downstairs creating an excellent family space.

1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | EPC tb | tbc

LITTLEPORT £175,000

A good size two bedroom semi-detached home in need of modernisation and offering further potential to extend (STP), situated in a highly desirable central village location.

2 | 1 | 1 | EPC tb | tbc

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NEW

Ely £525,000

A stunning Grade II listed home (circa 1803) in a central City location being well placed for access for the many local amenities & mainline railway station. The property offers versatile accommodation comprising entrance hall, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, lounge/dining room, study/bedroom 4, conservatory, 3 first floor double bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, mature gardens & off road parking. EPR N/R.

Littleport Guide Price £695,000

A rare opportunity to purchase an imposing 5 bedroom detached residence within a short walk from the mainline railway station, believed to date back to the 1700's with a substantial Victorian extension & in a superb mature plot of approx 1/2 an acre (sts) with yard, double and single garages and converted barn ideally suited for those wishing to work from home. EPR C.

Haddenham £575,000

A detached family home situated on a generous plot with superb views across surrounding countryside. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hallway, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, conservatory, 5 bedrooms (2 ensuite) and family bathroom, together with a double garage and gardens. EPR E.

NEW

Little Downham £399,950

An immaculately presented extended detached home offering superb accommodation, situated in a non estate location within an attractive mature plot. Entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen, utility, family room, dining room, 23'7' x 13'2' Lounge, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, extensive driveway, garage and gardens. Scope for further extension (subject to obtaining any necessary consents). EPR D.

RICS NAEA ARLA

CAMBRIDGE **ELY** HAVERHILL NEWMARKET SAFFRON WALDEN LONDON

Cheffins

Haddenham £199,500

A well presented extended bungalow situated in a residential location just a short distance from the centre of this highly regarded village. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/dining room, 3 bedrooms and bathroom, garage, parking and gardens. The property also benefits from radiator central heating. EPR TBC.

Haddenham £275,000

A well presented extended semi detached property situated in this well regarded village. Accommodation briefly comprises front porch, entrance hallway, lounge, open plan kitchen/dining area, separate dining room, conservatory, 4 bedrooms and family bathroom, together with a spacious driveway and rear garden. Viewing recommended. EPR TBC.

Ely £235,000

A modern end of terrace home situated in a popular cul de sac location with accommodation comprising entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen, lounge/dining room, 3 bedrooms and bathroom, together with enclosed rear garden and 2 off street parking spaces. The property has the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing. No upward chain. EPR C.

Haddenham £315,000

A superbly presented detached bungalow situated in the highly regarded village of Haddenham. The property has accommodation comprising entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, 3 bedrooms and bathroom, together with a garage/workshop/store room. The property also benefits from double glazing and oil fired central heating. EPR D.

Soham £325,000

An established spacious detached bungalow situated in a central location in Soham. Offering enormous potential and set on a generous plot. Accommodation comprises entrance porch, entrance hallway, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, 20' lounge, kitchen/dining room, utility room, conservatory, single garage, in-and-out driveway, 80' rear garden and spacious front garden. No upward chain. EPR D.

Stuntney £375,000

A spacious detached family home positioned on an attractive plot only 1.2 miles from Ely mainline train station. Accommodation comprises entrance hallway, cloakroom, sitting room, open plan kitchen / dining room, drawing room, utility room, 3 double bedrooms, family bathroom together with large frontage including driveway, single garage and gardens. EPR B.

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Fordham £239,950

A modern end of terrace property offered for sale with no upward chain, situated in a popular cul de sac location. Comprises entrance hall, cloakroom, superb refitted kitchen, lounge, 3 bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, attractive well maintained gardens, parking and garage. The property has the benefit of gas central heating and upvc double glazing. EPR TBC.

Ely £246,950

A centrally located terraced home offered for sale with no upward chain and convenient for the many City amenities, mainline railway station and attractive riverside walks. Accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen/dining room, 2 double bedrooms and shower room, together with front and rear gardens and allocated parking. EPR C.

Soham £260,000

An individual detached cottage with accommodation briefly comprising entrance hallway, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, family bathroom, garage, parking and gardens. The property also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. EPR E.

Soham £265,000

A superbly presented and imposing detached residence which offers a blend of both character and contemporary features and comprises entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, modern kitchen, study/ bedroom 4, ground floor bathroom, spacious first floor landing, 3 bedrooms (1 ensuite) and enclosed private rear garden. Centrally located. EPR D.

Witchford £289,950

An immaculately presented modern home constructed in 2006, situated in a popular cul de sac location close to the village college. Hall, superb refitted kitchen, 18'1' x 14'2' lounge/dining room, cloakroom, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway and well maintained rear gardens. Benefits include upvc double glazing and gas central heating. EPR C.

Sutton £289,950

An established detached bungalow situated in a small private lane close to the village centre. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hallway, study, kitchen, lounge, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking and gardens. The property also benefits from oil central heating. EPR E.

Ely £299,950

A spacious 3-storey townhouse offered for sale with no upward chain and comprising entrance hall, cloakroom, spacious kitchen/dining room, lounge, 4 bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, gardens, driveway and garage. Popular residential development. Viewing recommended. EPR D.

Little Downham £430,000

Deceptively spacious detached cottage in a most desirable part of the village overlooking paddocks & countryside to rear. Lobby, utility, cloakroom, superb refitted kitchen/breakfast room, lounge/dining room, conservatory, 4 bedrooms (1 ensuite), bathroom, driveway, attractive landscaped gardens. Stunning views. Rarely available. EPR C.

Witchford £599,950

Situated in the highly regarded village of Witchford, this superb, individual home (circa 2005), offers versatile family living accommodation which includes entrance hallway, sitting room, dining room, study, kitchen/family room, cloakroom, utility room, 5 bedrooms (3 ensuite) and family bathroom. There is also a cart lodge, parking and gardens. EPR C.

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Ely — £995 pcm

Modern detached house close to St Johns Primary School. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, cloakroom, dining room, kitchen, living room, four bedrooms (with ensuite to master bedroom) and a family bathroom. The property has gas central heating an enclosed garden and a garage. EPC: C.

Haddenham — £950 pcm

Beautifully presented detached cottage in the heart of the village. Accommodation comprises: Lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, three double bedrooms (en-suite to master) and family bathroom. Courtyard garden, and carport parking. Oil central heating. EPC: C

Littleport — £950 pcm

Modern four bedroom townhouse in the town of Littleport, approximately 5 miles from Ely and on the main train line between Kings Lynn and Kings Cross. Two of the bedrooms benefit from ensuite shower rooms and the house also has a low-maintenance garden and off road parking. Pets considered. EPC C.

Witchford — £700 pcm

A well presented mid terraced house in the popular village of Witchford. The property comprises entrance hallway, kitchen, lounge/diner leading to conservatory and rear garden. Two bedrooms and family bathroom. Garage and off road parking and gas central heating. EPC rating C.

*Letting fees apply. See Cheffins.co.uk for full details.

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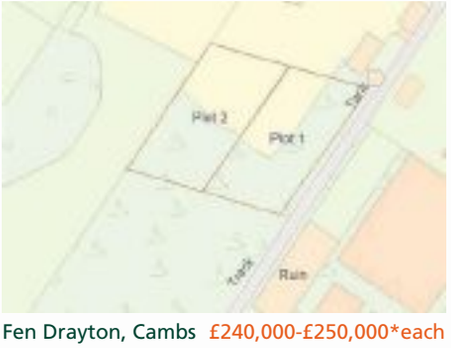
2nd March 2016 at 2pm

15 lots of land, residential and commercial property including

Wicken, Ely £70,000-£80,000*

Rare opportunity to purchase 3.26 acres of pasture land on the southern edge of the village of Wicken, enjoying a good frontage onto Back Lane

Viewings 01223 213777



Fen Drayton, Cambs £240,000-£250,000*each

Two separate building plots of 0.25 acres each with planning permission for a substantial detached 5 bedroom house, backing on to farmland.

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Papworth Everard, Cambs £250,000*

Development site in popular Cambridgeshire village, with outline planning permission for two detached house, with gardens and parking. Total site 0.32 acres

Viewings 01223 213777

Soham, Ely £100,000-£110,000*

End terrace 2 bedroom house with single storey extension to the rear, close to town centre. Property is in need of refurbishment and modernisation.

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Ramsey Heights, Cambs £80,000*

4.12 acres of well menage grazing land including stables, outdoor manege, fenced paddocks and field shelters. Ideal for equestrian uses.

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Isleham, Ely £45,000-£50,000*

Opportunity to purchase 3.49 acres of Grade 1 grazing land to the north of the village of Isleham, with post and rail fencing and access from highway.

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Ramsey Heights, Cambs £27,500-£30,000*

3.96 acres of grassland in rural location on the edge of Ramsey Heights with direct vehicular access from Harpers Drove.

Viewings 01223 213777

*Guide prices are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve price (a figure below which the auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set up to or within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide. The reserve price will remain confidential between the seller and the auctioneer.

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Ely — O.I.R.O. £275,000

- Older style cottage
- Centrally located
- 2/3 bedrooms
- Sitting room with fireplace
- Kitchen b'fast room
- Allocated parking
- EPC Rating E

Wilburton — O.I.R.O. £450,000

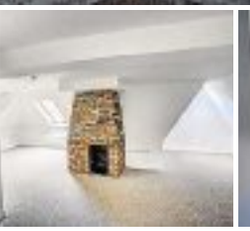
- Detached house
- Non estate location
- Spacious kitchen
- 4 bedrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- En-suite & family bathroom
- Detached double garage
- EPC Rating D

Ely

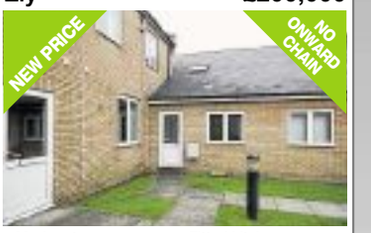
- Modern towhouse
- Fitted kitchen
- Lounge/dining room
- 2 fisrt floor bedrooms
- Master suite with en-suite
- Allocated parking
- Garage
- EPC Rating C

Ely — £220,000

- Centrally located
- Loft style apartment
- Grade II Listed building
- Open plan living
- 1 bedroom
- Bathroom
- Allocated parking
- EPC Rating C



Ely — £200,000



- Modern terrace
- leasehold home
- 2 Bedrooms
- En-suite & bathroom
- Fitted kitchen
- Sitting room & study
- Allocated parking
- EPC Rating C

Ely

- Modern semi townhouse
- Popular location
- 3 bedrooms
- Fitted kitchen with opening to
- Lounge/dining room
- En-suite to master bedroom
- Garage and garden
- EPC Rating C

Ely

- Extended detached house
- Popular location
- 4 bedrooms
- 1 en-suite
- Lounge & dining room
- Kitchen & utility
- Garadens to front & rear
- EPC Rating tbc

Haddenham — O.I.R.O. £450,000

- Detached residence
- Small development
- 4 bedrooms
- 2 en-suites
- Kitchen b'fast & utility
- 3 reception rooms
- Established gardens
- Double garage
- EPC Rating D

Stuntney — £530,000

- Individual detached house
- Non estate location
- Split level accomoodation
- 4 Reception rooms
- 4 bedrooms
- Open views to rear
- Double garage
- EPC Rating D

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HADDENHAM

A well presented, extended and renovated period detached home offering spacious accommodation throughout with delightful mature plot.

3 bedrooms, master with en suite shower room, family bathroom, split level landing, entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, drawing room, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, cloakroom, utility, double garage, workshop and gardens. EPC rating: F

£695,000

HADDENHAM

An immaculately presented and extended 1850's detached family home offering spacious accommodation throughout and delightful mature plot.

4 bedrooms, family bathroom, entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility, family room, shower room, garage, off street parking and gardens. EPC rating: E

£530,000

WICKEN

A beautiful four bedroom detached cottage full of character, set in mature gardens with double garage.

4 bedrooms, master with en-suite, family bathroom, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, study, family room, kitchen, cloakroom, double garage, driveway and surrounding mature gardens. EPC rating: E

£509,950

LITTLEPORT

An immaculately presented and updated detached family home offering good sized accommodation throughout located in a non estate position with private plot.

3 generous bedrooms, master and bedroom 2 with en-suite shower rooms, bedroom 3 with additional dressing room/study, family bathroom, landing, reception hall, sitting room, conservatory, dining room, kitchen, utility, cloakroom, garage, gardens and off street parking. EPC rating: C

£350,000

TuckerGardner

WITCHAM

An extended detached family home with accommodation over two floors offering flexible family living with delightful secluded plot, situated in a sought after non estate location.

4 bedrooms, reception hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, study, family bathroom, separate cloakroom, kitchen, utility room, gas fueled heating, double glazing, double garage, ample off road parking and gardens. EPC rating: D

£350,000

MEPAL

A well presented four bedroom detached family home, situated in a non estate location in the village of Mepal.

4 bedrooms, master with en suite, family bathroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/ breakfast room, utility room and cloakroom. EPC rating: C

£335,000

ELY

A well presented three bedroom home in an excellent city centre location rarely available.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, lounge/dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, rear garden and off street parking. EPC rating: D

£299,950

ELY

A well presented spacious three/four bedroom townhouse on the popular Cathedral view development.

3/4 bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen/dining room, living room, cloakroom, entrance hall and rear garden. EPC rating: C

£299,950

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NEW

MEPAL **£269,950**

A three bedroom detached bungalow forming part of this popular development with the addition of a Upvc conservatory to the rear and two garages.

3 bedrooms, master with en-suite shower room, family bathroom, sitting room, kitchen/dining room, Upvc conservatory, two single garages, off street parking for several vehicles, summer house, gardens and no chain. EPC rating: D

WITCHAM **£264,950**

A two bedroom semi-detached bungalow with garage and off street parking.

2 bedrooms, 2 en suites, kitchen/diner, lounge, entrance hall, cloakroom, front, side and rear garden and no upward chain. EPC rating: C

LITTLE OUSE **£224,950**

An established semi detached home offering spacious accommodation in-excess of 1500 sqft over three floors located in a semi rural location and backing onto open fields.

4 bedrooms, family bathroom, landing, entrance hall, open plan living room, kitchen/dining room, workshop, off street parking, gardens and no chain. EPC rating: D

NEW

SUTTON **£219,950**

An immaculately presented three bedroom semi-detached home in a pleasant cul-de-sac in Sutton.

3 bedrooms, family bathroom, lounge, kitchen/dining room, cloakroom, entrance hall, front and rear garden and driveway parking. EPC rating: C

HADDENHAM **£190,000**

A modern three bedroom semi detached bungalow in need of general updating located within this popular cul-de-sac.

3 bedrooms, sitting/dining room, kitchen, shower room, entrance hall, inner hallway, games room, store room, gardens, off street parking, double glazed and economy 7 heating. EPC rating: D

NEW

SUTTON **£179,950**

A four bedroom terraced home with a large garden, in a quiet cul-de-sac within the village of Sutton.

4 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, lounge/dining room, cloakroom, entrance hall, front, side and rear garden and off street parking. EPC rating: C

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Bursting With Character! Asking Price: £600,000

Stuntney, Ely

From the moment you pull up to the secure electric gates you cannot fail to be impressed. The sweeping gravel driveway showcases this attractive period property beautifully and the interior is equally stunning.
From the attractive kitchen that strikes the balance between period and modern to the lounge with its real wood burner you will see how lovingly this home has been restored and improved by the current owners. REF: 9665

Simply Stunning!!

Character Cottage

Chettisham

£395,000

Rural living within a mile and a half of the city of Ely gives you the best of both worlds. Beautiful views, a picturesque hamlet location, a character cottage and the city on your doorstep ! If you are looking for something different? welcome home .... This three bed property was originally farm cottages that were modernized in the 1980's to create a lovely family home.

Best Of Both Worlds

Looking For New?

Littleport

£250,000

EPC C

This is the last brand new home available on the popular Chamberlain Fields development. Four double bedrooms, two receptions, two ensuites along with family bathroom and downstairs wc and a fantastic kitchen dining room, add the double garage and off street parking to the side and you may just have found your dream home! REF: 9649

Spacious Living!

Four Bedrooms Semi-Detached House

Soham

£280,000

EPC D

Looking for a spacious family home? That is what John and Lesley were doing nearly 25 years ago when they came across this extended 4 bedrooms semi-detached house. With three children under the age of ten, they wanted something where all three boys could have their own bedrooms but also had the living space to match, and that is what they found here. This can be your next family home. REF 9989

Ready For The Next Family

Viewing Esential, Bigger Than It Looks

Haddenham

£275,000

EPC D

A wonderful four bedrooms family home in a well sought after area of Haddenham! With ample off road parking, spacious and versatile family accommodation, with superb gardens and loads of storage too. Don't miss out, call us now!! REF 9815

Superb Garden And Carport Parking

Space, Space And More Space £550,000

Witchford

Sitting on a total plot of just over 1/3 acre, Michael and Linda knew there would be room to extend the bungalow to get the living space they wanted, without compromising the opportunity for Linda to fully follow her passion for gardening. And over the last 13 or so years, boy have they realised that potential. What they have created is a truly stunning home, and the only way to appreciate their stunning work is to go and see it. REF 9963

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Off The Beaten Track!

£375,000

Soham

A fantastic bungalow with incredibly versatile living space and suitable for a family of any age! The best of both worlds, a quiet little cul de sac but in the centre of Soham. A beautiful home to last you a life time! Well proportioned rooms that offer a versatile living space. What would you use them for? Viewing strongly advised! REF 9660

Tucked Away

Family Space, Inside And Out

Soham

£285,000

EPC D

With the flexibility to offer four bedrooms, this detached bungalow has enough space for all the family both inside and out. With a block paved driveway to the front able to accommodate up to five cars comfortably, there will be no more arguments about who comes home latest or needs to get up earliest to leave for work. Viewings are a must...Call us now! REF: 9924

Parking For All The Family

Life On One Level

Witchford

£325,000

EPC D

Are you looking to live life on one level without having to downsize to a tiny box? The previous owner enjoyed happy times for nearly 30 years and it is only relocation to be with family that has made it available. The property does require updating throughout, and the seller hopes the new owners will enjoy renovating the bungalow to their own personal taste and have many happy years in their new home. REF 9919

Living Without Stairs

Rural Living

Mepal

£170,000 to £180,000

EPC D

If you want a solid house in a cul de sac location with a rural feel and farmland views set on the edge of the village of Mepal .... welcome home !! suiting both a younger family and an adult household this property has adaptable and versatile space.

Generous Living Space

Renovation Required

Littleport

£225,000

EPC D

Looking for a property to restore to its former glory? Are you from a family of skilled tradesman and want to call in all those long overdue favors? This quirky detached cottage will make a wonderful home for someone with imagination and flair. REF 9952

Detached Family Home

To The Manor Born

£425,000

Wereham

The feeling of grandeur and opulence strikes as soon as you enter the Grade ll listed East Wing of The Manor House. Being worthy of a mention in Pevsner's Architectural Guide, the manor house originally dates back to 1722 and was constructed of flint and carrstone, with the front aspect being refaced in brick circa 1729 and many original features still remain. Adjacent to the fireplace in the reception hall is a secret passageway leading to the level cellar, but what other way to spot all its secrets if not by looking around it. REF 9892

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the guide

On the path of a killer

AUTHOR Alison Bruce will talk about her latest novel in Ely next week.

The Promise is the sixth in her hugely popular DC Goodhew series.

A spokeswoman for Ely's Topping and Company Booksellers said: "Goodhew's doubts about his work are forgotten when the body of a badly beaten homeless man is discovered on Market Hill.

"In the meantime, another man plans revenge as his life falls apart; suddenly the streets of Cambridge hold deadly secrets which Goodhew must unravel to prevent one final desperate act.

"Alison's own inimitable style can be relied upon to bring her characters and plot into glorious technicolour."

Her talk is at St Peter's Church, in Broad Street, on Thursday, February 25, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £6. Call Toppings on (01353) 645005 or visit toppingbooks.co.uk.

theatre / cinema / classical music / folk festival / exhibitions /

the guide

ART

Cutting edge show of Matisse prints

JORDAN **DAY**
@JordanDayCN

WORK by legendary French artist Henri Matisse is on display in Ely.

The eagerly-anticipated exhibition, *Matisse: Drawing with Scissors, Late Works 1950-1954*, opened at Ely's Babylon Gallery on Saturday.

Thirty-five lithographic prints of some of Matisse's most spectacular last works make up the exhibition.

Known for both his use of colour and his fluid and original draughtsmanship, Matisse died in 1954.

He was a printmaker and sculptor, but is known primarily as a painter.

Matisse is commonly regarded, along with Pablo Picasso and Marcel Duchamp, as one of the three artists who helped to define the revolutionary developments in the plastic arts in the opening decades of the 20th century, responsible for significant developments in painting and sculpture.

Babylon ARTS, which is hosting the exhibition, is expecting thousands of people to see it over the next month.

Caroline Cawley, director of Babylon ARTS, said: "It's a colourful and vibrant exhibition with 35 lithographic prints of some of the spectacular last works of Matisse.

"He made them towards the end of his life when he was confined to his wheelchair or bed and was no longer able to paint, sculpt or make prints so he 'drew' with his scissors.

"Many of the original cutouts are now in public collections, with one of the most famous, *The Snail,* currently at the Tate Modern.

"The Babylon Gallery is able to bring this exhibition to Ely partly through the generous donations of our visitors which helps keep entry to our gallery free.

"Last time we had the Matisse exhibition shortly after the gallery opened here in 2000 we received several thousand visitors and we hope to match that again over the next month."

■ **The exhibition runs until March 13 and the gallery is open Tuesday to Sunday from noon-4pm. Entry is free. Find out more at *babylonarts.org.uk*.**

PRIME CUTS: Caroline Cawley and some of the prints
Pictures: Keith Jones

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CALLING ALL ACTORS AND SINGERS!

Viva is holding final auditions for their next adult show 'SWEENEY TODD THE MUSICAL' on Sunday 21st February, 3pm - 4pm at the Performing Arts Centre in Soham.

We are on the lookout to fill the roles of Pirelli, Johanna and Anthony as well as ensemble members. We are an open and friendly organisation providing exciting opportunities in the performing arts for the local area so come along and get stuck in!

For more information please contact us on
01353 722 228,
vivayouth@hotmail.co.uk or visit our website:
www.viva-group.org.uk
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MUSIC

Ely Folk Festival 2016 from July 8-10. Tickets on sale now at elyfolkfestival.co.uk.

TIME TO PARTY: This summer's Ely Folk Festival line-up promises something for all ages

Festival's fab line-up

SUMMER may seem like a long way away but the countdown to this year's Ely Folk Festival is now on.

The festival box office opened this week and, as ever, thousands of music lovers from far and wide are expected to attend.

This year's event is being held at the Ely Outdoor Centre, in Downham Road, from July 8-10.

The line-up includes Edward II, the English roots band that uniquely blends Caribbean rhythms with traditional songs, internationally-renowned Irish trad group, Altan, and singer/songwriter Dougie MacLean whose anthem Caledonia is one of Scotland's most popular contemporary songs.

Martin Simpson, The Young'uns, Blackbeard's Tea Party, Heidi Talbot Band, Gigspanner, Wizz Jones and RURA, to name just a few, will also be taking to the stage.

The festival also hosts three ceilidhs over the weekend, led by popular groups including Monster Ceilidh Band and Steamchicken, and there will be a number of family-themed activities.

Fionnuala Lennon, a member of Ely Folk Festival Committee, said: "The line-up this year really showcases the fantastic breadth of English and celtic folk music."

She added: "Sunday in particular has a Celtic influence as in addition to Dougie, we have also lined up exciting young Scottish band RURA and Irish superband Altan."

Adult weekend tickets purchased before June 1 start at £69.

Tickets for each day can also be bought and start at £24 for a Friday evening ticket.

Reduced price tickets are available for concessions and young people, and children under 10 get free entry.

Details on how to book tickets and lots more about the festival are available at elyfolkfestival.co.uk.

Tickets for Ely Folk Festival 2016 are now on sale

SOHAM

LINE-UP: Irish singer Shawn Cuddy, left, and psychic medium Tony Stockwell will entertain audiences at The Brook

Music and mediumship are on the menu at The Brook

COUNTRY musician Kenny Paul, psychic medium Tony Stockwell and Irish singer Shawn Cuddy are coming to Soham this month.

Irish swooner Kenny is performing at The Brook on Friday, February 19.

His gig starts at 9pm and tickets are £15.

Tony, a British medium, author and television personality, will host an evening of mediumship there on Thursday, February 25.

And on Friday, February 26, Shawn, who has been in the business for 25 years and is one of Ireland's best-loved singers, is performing.

Tony's event starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £19.50 each.

Shawn's starts at 9pm and tickets are £16.50.

Call (01353) 721748 or visit brookentertainment for tickets or more information.

Programme of live events at The Brook in Soham. Call (01353) 721748 or visit brookentertainment.co.uk to find out more.

CLOSER TO HOME

- THE City of Ely Amateur Dramatic Society is presenting The Ladykillers – the classic black comedy tale of a sweet little old lady pitted against a gang of criminal misfits who will stop at nothing.
The show is being performed at Ely College from Thursday, February 18 to Saturday, February 20.
Performances are at 7.30pm each evening and tickets are £9. Call (01353) 669759 or pop into Burrows Bookshop in Ely's High Street Passage. Alternatively, visit elyamateurdramatics.org.

- SUZI Jodie, Josh Aitken and Asbestos are among local musicians who will be performing at Ely's next Innovation Music Night.
The event takes place at the Babylon Gallery on Friday, February 19.
The fun kicks off at 7pm and tickets are £3 each. Tickets are available on the door or by calling (01353) 616991.

- THE Record Machine are hosting a line dance disco at Prickwillow's Hiam Sports and Social Club on Friday, February 19.
Doors open at 7pm and tickets are £4.50 for members or £6 for non-members. On Saturday, February 20 there is a ballroom and sequence dance with Bob Watts.
Doors open at 7pm and tickets are £5 for members and £6.50 for non-members. Call (01353) 688269.

- LOCAL band, Summerland, are performing at Littleport Ex-servicemen's Club on Saturday, February 20.
The gig starts at 8.45pm and admission is £5 for members or £6 for non-members. Call (01353) 860378.

- A JACOBEAN study day is being held at Ely's Toppings and Company Bookshop on Sunday, February 21.
Robert Jones is hosting the event and will be looking in detail at the work of playwrights Ben Jonson and Thomas Middleton.
The workshop runs from 2-5pm and the cost is £20. Call (01353) 645005.

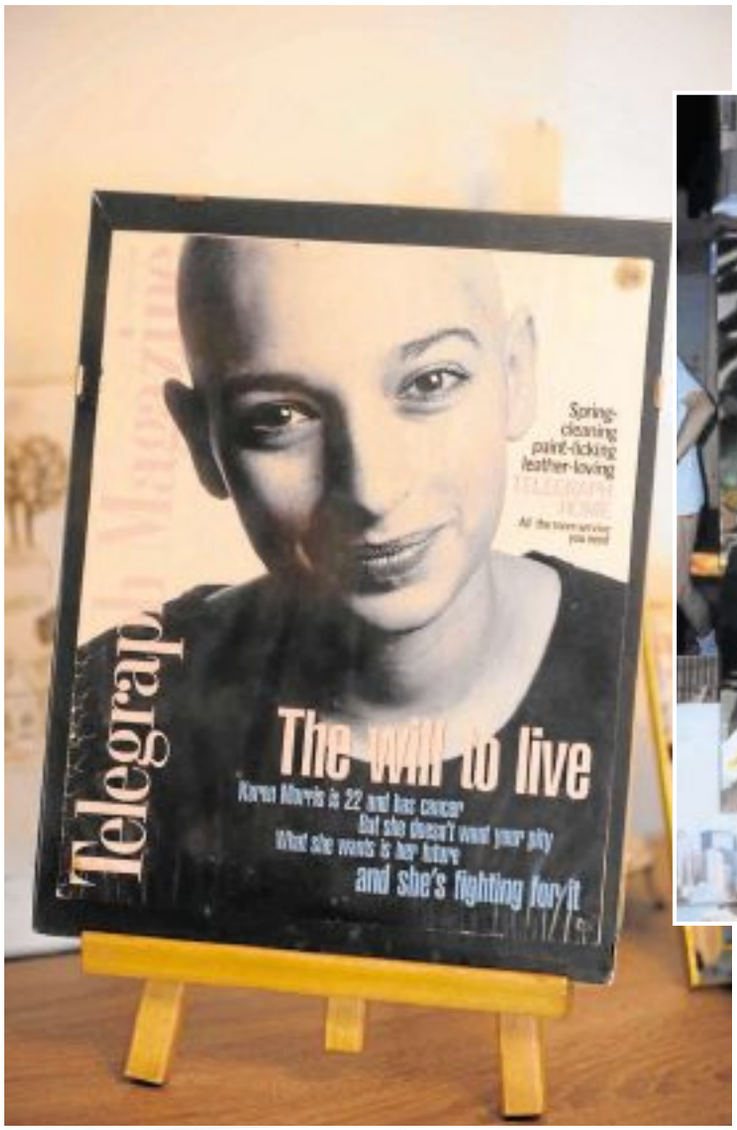
- AS You Like It is being screened live in Ely from London's National Theatre on Thursday, February 25.
The screening is at Ely Cinema at 7pm. Tickets are £14.50, £13.50 for concessions and £12.50 for cinema members. Call (01353) 616991 or visit babylonarts.org.uk.

- COMEDIANS Lewis Bryan, Jay Sodagar, Keith Platt and John Mann are taking to the stage in Ely.
The stand-up comedy night is being held at The Maltings on Friday, February 26.
Doors open at 8pm and tickets are £12.95. Call (01353) 662633, pop into Burrows Bookshop in Ely or visit themaltingsely.co.uk.

FEATURE

‘Fundraising helps keep Karen with us’

Since losing her daughter Karen to leukaemia in 1998, Sylvia Morris has worked tirelessly to transform the lives of others suffering from the same disease. Here, she tells Lydia Fallon about her mission to keep Karen’s memory alive.



BRAVE: Karen Morris campaigned to put more people on the bone marrow register and to raise funds for the hospital where she was being treated; now her mother Sylvia, right, is carrying on her work; below left, Sylvia Morris receives her British Citizen Awards certificate from Will Gore, deputy editor of the *i* newspaper

SYLVIA Morris’s Stapleford home is filled with family photos. From school portraits of her three grandchildren to happy holiday snaps, the smiles of Sylvia’s family shine down from every wall.

But there’s one in particular which stands out. It’s the front cover of *Telegraph Magazine* from Easter Sunday 1998 and shows the striking image of a beautiful young woman with big, Bambi-like eyes alongside the headline “The will to live”.

The young woman is Sylvia’s eldest daughter Karen. Although you wouldn’t know it to look at her, Karen had been fighting leukaemia for over six months at this point, a battle which she eventually lost on September 19, 1998, at the age of 23.

Pictures and memories are now all Sylvia has left. “It’s a beautiful picture,” she smiles fondly. “It was actually taken by Jason Bell who is now the royal photographer!

“She’s lost all her hair at this point but she wasn’t embarrassed to be photographed like that. I remember when it started to fall out she asked the nurse to shave it all off. She was incredibly brave.”

Bravery, determination and an iron-clad will to live defined Karen’s year-long battle with this cruel disease. In the last months of her life, Karen campaigned endlessly to raise awareness of leukaemia and ensure more people signed up to the bone marrow register.

After her death, Sylvia was determined to continue the invaluable work her Karen had started. She set up the Karen Morris Memorial Trust in memory of her daughter in 1999, and in the years since has raised more than £2 million and transformed thousands of lives in the process. The Morrises are one very inspiring family.

“Karen had always wanted to make a contribution to life, to leave this world a slightly better place because of her efforts, and we wanted to make sure her legacy lives on,” says Sylvia. “The charity brings some meaning to our loss and ensures she didn’t go in vain.”

Karen was in the middle of a four-year French and history degree at Warwick University when she was diagnosed with leukaemia. She was in Paris, teaching English to secondary school students, when she noticed some bruises on her legs, “but she thought she’d just banged her shins; that she was just a bit clumsy,” Sylvia recalls.

She returned home from Paris not long after and decided to go to the doctors after discovering a blotch on her face too. It was at this point, Sylvia says, “everything exploded. We were about to go on holiday to Spain when we got a phone call asking Karen to come in to the hospital, and for me to come with her. They’d sent off for a blood test for the mark on her face and had the results . . .”

On September 11, 1997, doctors diagnosed Karen with chronic myeloid leukaemia. Karen was just 22. She was fit, healthy and had her whole life ahead of her – the news was incomprehensible.

“It was an old man’s disease and Karen was always so healthy; we were stunned,” recalls Sylvia. “Karen immediately burst into tears, and then slowly started coping with it, while I was slower to absorb it; all I could think was ‘Why us?’.

“But I had to stay strong for Karen’s sake, and for my younger daughter Debby. I remember the week before she passed away the doctor saying to me ‘There is no hope; how are you always so cheerful?’ and I said ‘How else can I be? I’ve got to be strong in front of them’.”

The day of her diagnosis Karen agreed to front a campaign for the Sue Harris Bone Marrow Trust, with the aim of encouraging more donors to sign up to the bone marrow register.

“She was a very popular youth leader with a large circle of friends, and as a result of the campaign thousands joined the register and tens of thousands of pounds was raised,” smiles Sylvia.

Never one to rest on her laurels, Karen also started her own campaign for Leuka 2000, the fundraising branch of the Hammersmith Hospital where she was receiving treatment. “She was so incredibly brave. I have this picture in my mind from when I used to drop her off at the hospital. She’d get out the car, sling her bag over her shoulder and march in,” says Sylvia.

“She wanted to know everything, all the what-ifs. I could only cope with what was happening in the moment but she had a great inner strength. Even on the night before she passed away, she was asking the consultant for her next booster.”

To support the Karen Morris Memorial Trust or for further information, see kmmt.org.uk.

Sylvia’s life has changed irrevocably since Karen’s passing. “When you lose a child nothing else bothers you any more; it puts everything into perspective,” she says.

Nothing can ease the pain either, she adds, but throwing herself headfirst into Karen’s fundraising initiative did prove a great source of comfort and strength. “I found it therapeutic;

"I had to stay strong for Karen's sake, and for my younger daughter Debby. I remember the week before Karen passed away the doctor saying to me 'There is no hope; how are you always so cheerful?' and I said 'How else can I be? I've got to be strong in front of them'. . ."

Picture: Keith Jones

something to hang on to which wasn't just memories. It was a way of keeping her name alive and to keep her with us."

The Karen Morris Memorial Trust (KMMT) became a registered charity in 1999, and nearly 17 years later continues to thrive.

The main focus of the charity is Karen's Homes from Home, which aims to provide private, on-site accommodation for the families of people suffering from leukaemia, so they can support each other through the ups and downs of treatment. The charity has homes at four of the leading leukaemia hospitals in the UK (with a fifth hopefully on the way): Hammersmith, the Churchill in Oxford, the Queen Elizabeth in Birmingham and our own Addenbrooke's.

"The emphasis is very much on 'home'," explains Sylvia. "They are all very welcoming, fully equipped with books and games. Families can cook their favourite meals; they can have a bath, everything is meant to be designed for comfort."

Running the charity can, Sylvia concedes, be a lot of hard work, but the feedback she receives from users makes it more than worthwhile. "From 'It gave us a chance to be human beings and a normal couple, not a patient and a carer' to 'I could be with my wife 24/7 for her last Christmas'; it's been really wonderful to hear how the homes have helped people."

Her unwavering dedication hasn't gone unnoticed. Sylvia was recently one of 33 medallists honoured at the British Citizen Awards (BCAs), a national honour celebrating the country's unsung heroes. "The ceremony was amazing; I didn't think I'd be as affected as I was," she says.

What would Karen have thought of it all? "I could hear her shrieks of 'WOW!'," she chuckles. "She was very much there with us."

Sylvia talks about Karen often; wonders what her daughter would be up to if she was still alive, and how different her own life would be.

"I've got three grandchildren, and when you ask the youngest (whose middle name is Karen) what her name is she will say 'Ayela Auntie Karen Jepps'. And they all ask 'Would Auntie Karen have liked me?' We talk about her all the time; it's important to keep her memory alive," says Sylvia.

"I remember at her funeral the rabbi said her book is still open and at the time I felt really cross, really upset about that because it wasn't, but, actually, it really is. She's always with us – just not in the way we would like."

Karen's sister Debby is running the Cambridge Half Marathon alongside her friend Lindsey to raise money for KMMT, you can sponsor them at justgiving.com/debbyandlindseyhalfmarathon.

KMMT is also looking for cyclists to join its Golden Bond for the Ride London 100 on July 31, see the website for further details.

ELY news Coach Holidays

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Don't miss this opportunity to be one of the first to 'fly' high above Brighton's historic seafront to enjoy breathtaking views from the iconic, exciting new British Airways i360. With entrance to this striking new attraction, the chance to savour all the delights of one of Britain's premier resorts, plus a visit to glorious Royal Windsor, this is a wonderful summertime break with a difference!

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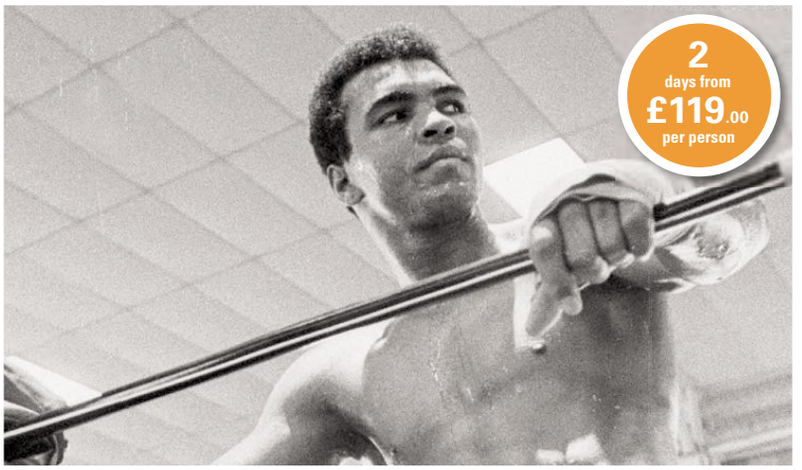
*Book by 29 February 2016. Please quote code 3MGKU9. £10 reduction is off the price shown above. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

I am the Greatest: Muhammad Ali at The O2

A unique exhibition, departing 7 May 2016



This is your chance to see 'I am the Greatest', a unique exhibition at London's O2 which explores Muhammad Ali's incredible rise from humble beginnings to three times heavyweight champion of the World. Discover the true story behind this man, once the most famous in the world, and learn about his life both inside and outside the ring. Ali's is a story that transcends boxing glory and the exhibition is ultimately a celebration of the principles that shaped his life. Don't miss out!

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CAMBRIDGE news

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Google's autonomous car set-up is legally the driver

GOOGLE'S driverless car system, a sophisticated piece of artificial intelligence, is now being declared the legal driver by a US regulator.

In a letter to Chris Urmson, director of the internet giant's self-driving car project, the American government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration outlined its new stance.

Traditionally, vehicles without a driver physically behind the wheel would not be considered safe or roadworthy.

But over the past 100 years technological developments including the introduction of anti-lock brakes through to air bags and lane departure warnings have changed the face of driving.

In November Google asked the NHTSA to interpret current federal motor vehicle safety standards and how they apply to the car they are currently testing and developing.

The letter sent earlier this month reads: "If no human occupant of the vehicle can actually drive the vehicle, it is more reasonable to identify the driver as whatever (as opposed to whoever) is doing the driving.

"In this instance, an item of motor vehicle equipment, the SDS, is actually driving the vehicle."

Google's Self Driving System is an onboard computer that "controls all aspects of driving by perceiving its environment and responding to it".

And the NHTSA agrees that no human occupant of Google's autonomous vehicles could meet the criteria of a "driver" as they would not be capable of actually driving it.

Google's fleet of prototype driverless cars rely on sensors and software to complete journeys.

Their shape is more rounded than normal cars to allow the lasers, radars and cameras to detect objects in all directions. They are powered by electric batteries and have an interior that is "designed for riding, not for driving".

Earlier this month it was disclosed that transport bosses in London are in "active discussion" with Google in a bid to bring trials of the driverless cars to the UK.

It was also announced by the Government that they will invest £20 million in eight driverless car projects in the UK.

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said the technology would "profoundly change" travel within years – by reducing accidents and helping traffic flow.

VOLKSWAGEN: Changing tack

VW replaces 1.4 and 1.6 units with a 1.5

VOLKSWAGEN'S current line-up of 1.4 and 1.6 engines will be replaced by a new set of 1.5-litre models.

The new TSI and TDI engines will replace the existing engines in popular cars from Skoda, Volkswagen, Seat and Audi. Volkswagen says these new engines are designed to meet the much more difficult emissions regulations set to begin in 2020.

The engines are understood to be similar in size and shape to the existing ones, however the new models are likely to be lighter and more aerodynamic than the outgoing versions.

Volkswagen has been criticised in recent months for their role in the 'dieselgate' emissions scandal, in which the Wolfsburg-based car maker was accused of putting 'defeat devices' in cars to cheat emissions tests.

Seat unveils the Ateca, its first SUV, at Barcelona show

DEBUT: The Seat Ateca

YESTERDAY Seat unveiled its first SUV in Barcelona.

At UK launch this September, Ateca will be available in a wide range of variants. The choice of powerful turbocharged TSI petrol and TDI diesel engines spans from 115 PS to 190 PS, with either front-wheel or all-wheel-drive, mated to manual or dual-clutch DSG transmissions. The extensive array of technology options extends from full-LED headlights through a broad portfolio of assistance systems, including some of the very latest Group technology, such as Traffic Jam Assist and Emergency Assist, right through to a package of high-end nfotainment systems with eight-inch touchscreens and Full Link connectivity. Three trim levels will offer colours and top-quality materials to suit every taste, with the top-spec being the Ateca XCELLENCE.

In keeping with Seat tradition, the Ateca derives its name from Spanish geography, this time taking inspiration from the village of the same name which lies in the west of Zaragoza, right in the heart of the brand's homeland.

The range of innovative driver assistance systems is extensive and includes Traffic Jam Assist:at traffic jam speeds, the Ateca steers, accelerates and brakes automatically within the system boundaries. At higher speeds of up to 37mph, the system provides support with speed control and lane keeping. A new safety function is Emergency Assist: if the driver remains inactive beyond a certain period, the vehicle issues first a visual then an acoustic warning, followed finally by a brief pulse of the brakes. If there is still no reaction, the Ateca slows down to a standstill, while staying in lane. Rounding off its array of additional support technologies are ACC with Front Assist, Traffic Sign Recognition, Blind Spot Detection, Rear Cross Traffic Alert and Top View Camera.

All powertrains are turbocharged. They range from 115 PS to 190PS. The diesel options start with the 1.6 TDI 115PS. The 2.0 TDI is available with 150 and 190PS. Fuel consumption figures range from 56 to 66mpg, its CO2 figures from 112 to 131g/km.

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Offer valid until 31 March 2016 at participating dealers only and subject to vehicle availability. Model shown is Navara Tekna at £29,995 with additional metallic paint at £495. Vehicle price includes first registration fee and 12 months road fund licence. For terms and conditions relating to Nissan technologies visit www.nissan.co.uk/technology T&Cs. Always drive carefully and attentively. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing, in accordance with 2004/3/EC and intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. Optional equipment, maintenance, driving behaviour, road and weather conditions may affect the official results. Information correct at time of going to print. Model shots shown are illustration purposes only. 5 Year / 100,000 miles (whatever comes first) Manufacturer warranty for the LCV range (with the exception of eNV200: 5 Year / 60,000 miles manufacturer warranty for EV system parts, 3 Year / 60,000 miles for the rest of the vehicle). Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

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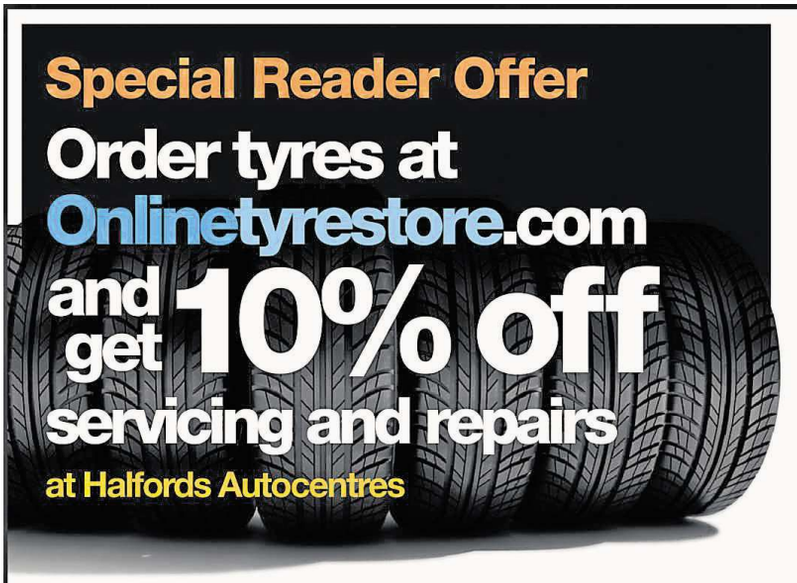

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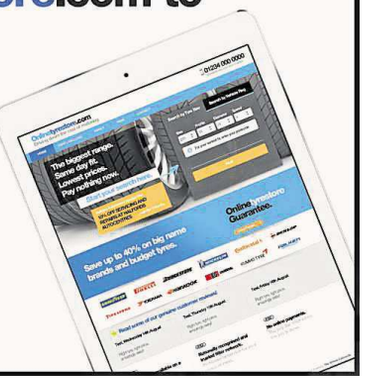

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SUE, 38yrs, passionate, broad-minded and feisty seeks discreet fun with 'Mr Wrong'. **Tel: 0906 515 3032 Box 413007**

LOUISE, 43, attractive curvy size 12, independent, OHAC, career, many hobbies, looking for similarly interesting male for companionship hopefully progressing to more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420785**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715**

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SUE, 49, blonde blue eyed slim but curvy attractive female, likes a good movie with nice bottle of wine, WLTM likeminded genuine male. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420753**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3024 Box: 420237**

KATHY easy going curvy tanned nurse looking for relaxation and fun times with appreciative uncomplicated male, any age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 411893**

CHRIS, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTM caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420667**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3016 Box: 413399**

AMY single mum of one, 19yrs, attractive, slim and tall, seeks nice guy for cosy nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 419835**

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broad-minded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. **Tel: 0906 515 3036 Box: 407953**

KAREN 37yr old female who enjoys cosy nights in, WLTM tactile male who is not afraid of some romance, holding hands and sharing cuddles, 35-58yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420725**

JASMINE, musical lady, husband in the forces and bored alone. 35yrs but loves older men. ACA. **Text only Box: 4161836**

MONICA 38yr old bubbly likeable non judgemental female looking for someone similar who is sincere to fall in love with. Any age/race/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420711**

KAREN, blue eyed blonde, size 14 with a large bust, 46yrs. Give me a call for some discreet chats. **Text only Box: 4053061**

OLIVIA classy 30's lady looking for mature male with a good imagination and open-minded approach to relationships. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420697**

SALLY ANN, care worker for the elderly so loves older men. Im only 29yrs but very mature. **Text only Box: 4145714**

JANE pretty brunette, large build, loves to cook up a treat, seeking kind male who wants to be spoilt rotten, for love in return. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420681**

PASSIONATE honest slim blue eyed blonde, 39yrs, likes nights in/out, looking for affectionate male, any age to spend adult fun times. Interested? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 412173**

SUE, 49, blonde blue eyed slim but curvy attractive female, likes a good movie with nice bottle of wine, WLTM likeminded genuine male. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420587**

JESSIE looking to share some New Year Nonsense? look no further, attractive single mum 38yrs, seeking discreet male for festive fun maybe more. call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420611**

JULIE attractive 35yr old female with a great body, looking for no strings attached evening meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 411779**

JO, 42, newly divorced, new to dating, perfect size 10, OHAC, solvent, looking for some fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420559**

VICKY 47 attractive petite brown hair, blue eyed female, enjoys nice lunches, cinema, keeping fit etc, WLTM reliable male, looks/age/status not important. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 410307**

ANGIE, 40, bubbly female with GSOH, looking to put some fun back into my life with similar aged tactile male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420487**

SANDRA single 38yr old young at heart social female looking for genuine male for breaks away, friendship, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420471**

BARBARA 36, slim blonde likes music, sport, the outdoors, quiet nights in etc, WLTM kind honest gent willing to expand and share interests and get to know me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420441**

SARAH 35 attractive cultured female seeking similar professional articulate tactile soul mate with GSOH for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420321**

SUSAN, 48, genuine loving lady seeking similar male, I'm very solvent, well travelled, have my OHAC and am looking to spoil Mr. Right. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420319**

JEAN, 40, blue eyed slim blonde, certainly not looking for time wasters, WLTM likeminded male to enjoy cuddles and all the simple things life has to offer. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420317**

SUE, 48, fair haired petite caring nurse likes nice holidays, romantic nights in/out, WLTM appreciative male to love and care for. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420203**

LINDA attractive fun loving pretty 43yr old, confident but not pushy, looking to enjoy good times with male 40plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420191**

JEAN blue eyed slim blonde, certainly not looking for time wasters, WLTM likeminded male to enjoy cuddles and all the simple things life has to offer. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420171**

JULIE attractive 35yr old female with a great body, looking for no strings attached evening meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 411779**

LOUISE 23, slim build, big blue eyes, brown hair, loves nights out, looking for nice guy to take me out and show me a good time. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 419999**

BEV, 41, very attractive sensual warm-hearted, looking for good times with confident loving male. Call to me find out more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420069**

CLARE bubbly blonde 33, N/S, loves nights in/out seeking genuine interesting man for possible relationship, dads welcome. looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420039**

WHY do I feel like the only singleton? Emma 37, attractive, witty, sociable and single! Call me to find out more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 419999**

BARBARA, single mum looking for adult companionship, any age/looks or status. Interested? Come on over to my place. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 418573**

ABI 40yr old very happily divorced female looking for similar male 35-50yrs to enjoy nights in romancing, chatting and making each other smile again. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 419847**

JESSICA 39, attractive fit/healthy blonde female enjoys travel, music, the Arts, gym, the good things in life, seeking love, laughter, LTR with similar male, 40-55yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 418083**

AMY single mum of one, 19yrs, attractive, slim and tall, seeks nice guy for cosy nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 419835**

BARBARA 36 slim blonde likes music, sport, the outdoors, quiet nights in etc, WLTM kind honest gent willing to expand and share interests and get to know me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 419069**

male seeking

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MALE, 71, fit, smart, seeks Cambs, Suffolk, Norfolk lady, for days in and out, fun times, friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420929**

VERY kind male, 50, enjoys cinema, eating out, live concerts and travel, WLTM attractive, loving lady, 38-53, n/s, with similar interests for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420639**

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STEVE 58 yrs, 6ft, average build, seeking woman for NSA mutual pleasure, marital status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5400701**

CHRIS, male, 47, single, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks female between 25 and 45 for fun and maybe more. Please get in touch. **Text only mailbox no: 5352046**

SLIM attractive man WLTM caring lady, 40-58, for friendship, reply and claim free hug. **Text only mailbox no: 4172082**

ATTRACTIVE male 56 seeks dom female 40 to 70 for close adult fun, any status or size. **Text only to mailbox: 4347071**

WIDOWER 67, looking for female, any age/size, looks not important, for some TLC and LTR as been on my own for too long. **Text only to mailbox: 4837120**

MATURE male, 6ft, slim, fit, clean and smart, residing in central Birmingham, seeks slimish female for fun times. **Text only to mailbox: 5383053**

RICHARD looking for a lady for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420027**

MAN 55yrs, 6ft med build, single, looking for a special lady to share no strings fun and good times Age/status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5381487**

KALU 26 years old single dark/black good looking man looking for a good-looking women for sexy fun. **Text only to mailbox: 5383533**

HI my name is Ian, 64, semi-retired, separated with grown up children, I like football, going for walks, music and enjoy a glass of red wine at home, looking for a lady for company maybe more. If you would like to contact me that would be great! **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 419051**

LOVING male, 50, enjoys cinema, eating out, live concerts and travel WLTM loving, down-to-earth lady, n/s, 38-53, with similar interests for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420337**

YOUNG looking 30s male, five foot eight, slim, blonde hair, blue-eyes, looking for naughty 40s female, for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420513**

GARY 53yr old 6dt 2ins slim male looking for going out, dining, walks, friendship, maybe more. Lets see how it goes. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 405061**

MALE 54, seeks lady 45-54 for company, days out, theatre and having fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 410939**

HAPPY man 59 looking for a lady to share the good times. I enjoy cinema, eating out, pubs and holidays in hot places. **Text only to mailbox no: 4618385**

MALE 6ft 2ins, N/S, 54, looking for female for days out and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 405457**

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SMART nice looking, professional male, OHAC/business, N/S, seeks female, 40-55 for love, romance and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 392827**

ATTRACTIVE male, own home/business, seeking LTR with lady wanting to be loved in a away she deserves. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 396257**

ROMANTIC fashionable, professional, attractive, solvent male, own business, reliable, tactile, loving, GSOH, lovely personality, seeks LTR with genuine female. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 408427**

PROFESSIONAL male, N/S, own home/business, solvent, smart, attractive, romantic, loving personality, GSOH, seeking LTR with genuine female. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 415353**

MID 50's male, seeks attractive, black female, any age for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 384483**

NICE looking solvent male, OHAC/business, lovely personality, very honest, loving, tactile, seeks LTR with attractive female. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 404393**

PROFESSIONAL romantic, attractive male, fashionable, honest, loving, tactile, GSOH, seeking long term with genuine female. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 410239**

gay seeking

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YOUNG, lean, athletic male, seeks elderly gentleman for nice walks in the park. **Tel No: 0906 515 4438 Box No: 420761**

MALE, 47, fit, active, seeks chubby older man, over 70 years, for fun and friendship. **Text only to mailbox: 5401548**

SINGLE gay man early 60s WLTM gay/big/CD male late 20s to early 40s for good times and friendship. Gloucestershire. **Text only to mailbox no: 4667184**

BI male, single widower, 58, seeks gay male friends near Tamworth. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4355756**

BI male WLTM same for weekend fun, 60 to 70 years old. Must be able to accommodate. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168**

BI curious guy 36, looking for gay or bi male age 58 - 80 for adult fun. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4930039**

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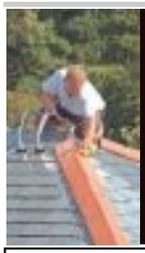

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Closing date 10th March - interviews 15th March

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Please contact Francesca for an application form on (01799) 584359 or email francesca.fallon@glebehouse.org.uk stating which position you are applying for.

Alternatively our application form can be downloaded from www.glebehouse.org.uk where full details are available.

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Closing date for applications: Friday 26 February 2016

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Public Notices

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE is given that Cambridgeshire County Council intends after seven days, to make the following Orders pursuant to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991, the effect of which:

Ely Road (B1382), Queen Adelaide (Kings Lynn Line)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC)
ORDER 2016/079

Is to stop any vehicle from proceeding along Ely Road (B1382), Queen Adelaide (Kings Lynn Line) as lies between points 20m either side of the railway level crossing situated there as measured from its gates or barriers.

The alternative route for vehicles is via B1382 – A1101 – A10 – B1382 and vice versa.

The proposed Order is necessary to facilitate essential maintenance works which are being carried out on or near this highway and it will come into operation on 26 March 2016 and continue until those works have finished or on the 25 September 2016 whichever is the earlier.

It is anticipated that these works will be carried out overnight between 22:45hrs 26 March and 09:00hrs 27 March 2016.

Lynn Road (A10), Littleport
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC)
ORDER 2016/082

Is to stop any vehicle from proceeding along Lynn Road (A10), Littleport as lies between points 20m either side of the railway level crossing situated there as measured from its gates or barriers.

The alternative route for vehicles is via A10 – A142 – A141 – A47 – A1122 – A10 and vice versa.

The Order is made to facilitate essential maintenance works which are being carried out on or near this highway and it will come into operation on 6 March 2016 and continue until those works have finished or on the 5 September 2016 whichever is the earlier.

It is anticipated that these works will be carried out overnight between 01:00hrs and 09:00hrs 6 March 2016.

Cromwell Road, Ely
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC)
ORDER 2016/083

Is to stop any vehicle from proceeding along Cromwell Road, Ely as lies between number 16 and St Marys Street.

The alternative route for vehicles is via St Marys Street – West End – Chiefs Street – Cromwell Road and vice versa.

The proposed Order is necessary to facilitate access for BT cabling and chamber works which are being carried out on or near this highway and it will come into operation on 18 March 2016 and continue until these works have finished or on the 17 September 2016 whichever is the earlier.

It is anticipated that these works will be carried out overnight between 21:00hrs 18 March and 06:00hrs 19 March 2016.

Lisle Lane, Ely
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC)
ORDER 2016/096

Is to stop any vehicle from proceeding along Lisle Lane, Ely as lies between Prickwillow Road and Bell Holt.

The alternative route for vehicles is via Lisle Lane – Fore Hill – Broad Street – Station Road – A142 – Cambridge Road – St Marys Street – Lynn Road – Nutholt Lane – Newham Street – Prickwillow Road and vice versa.

The proposed Order is necessary to facilitate maintenance works which are being carried out on or near this highway and it will come into operation on 29 February 2016 and continue until these works have finished or on the 28 July 2016 whichever is the earlier.

It is anticipated that these works will be carried out overnight between 29 February and 4 March 2016.

High Street, Ely
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC)
ORDER 2016/109

Is to stop any vehicle from proceeding along High Street, Ely as lies between Forehill and Market Place.

The alternative route for vehicles is via High Street – Forehill – Lisle Lane – B1382 – B1141.

The proposed Order is necessary to facilitate manhole repair works which are being carried out on or near this highway and it will come into operation on 21 March 2016 and continue until these works have finished or on the 20 September 2016 whichever is the earlier.

It is anticipated that these works will be carried out between 19:00hrs 21 March and 06:00hrs 22 March 2016.

Access will be maintained to properties affected by these orders.

The above Orders shall not apply to any persons lawfully engaged in connection with any works for which they are made, any member of the Police Force, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service, a vehicle being used by Special Forces during the execution of their duties or to any person acting with the permission or upon the direction of a Police Officer in uniform.

Graham Hughes, Executive Director, Economy, Transport and Environment, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge CB3 0AP

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SWIMMING

Swimmers win medals at county championships

CITY of Ely Swimming Club put on an impressive display at the Cambridgeshire ASA County Swimming Championships.

The Barracudas won an impressive 32 medals – eight gold, 13 silver and 11 bronze.

The best atmosphere of the championships came in the relay competitions that took place over the final weekend, with Ely finishing fifth.

In the overall age group competitions, Daniel Kendall was crowned under-10 champion, George Goodfellow was second in the under-12 boys' category, and Ciara Taylor was fourth in the under-11 girls' section.

Club records and personal bests were set across the Ely team, as the youngsters once again demonstrated that the hard work led by their head coach Elaine Hill and the volunteers, is paying off.

TALENTED: The Ely swimmers who starred at the county championships

BOXING

Gill eyes progress to big title encounters

JORDAN Gill hopes victory in his next bout on the undercard of Ingle Gym stablemate Kell Brook's IBF world welterweight title defence against Kevin Bizier at Sheffield Arena on March 26 will propel him into the top 10 in the country

With 15 wins in a row since turning professional, the 21-year-old Chatteris featherweight is a hot prospect.

As a youngster, Gill won the NACYP and Junior ABA titles, as well as representing Great Britain, and there was little chance of him straying from the path to success, having spent school holidays training at the renowned Sheffield gym since the age of 14.

Gill (pictured right) said his first three years as a pro had been an apprenticeship, but he felt he had gained more experience from simply being around the likes of Brook and unbeaten former European and Commonwealth super-bantamweight champion Kid Galahad regularly.

He said: "The 15 fights I've had have been to keep me sharp under the lights, but the learning I've had from going to different gyms and being in the Ingle gym around a world champion like Kell Brook and a Commonwealth champion like Kid Galahad, there's no better environment for me to be in.

"It's not just the boxing side of things. When you're in each others pockets all the time, we're really like family.

"You can see how much it takes to become a champion and achieve what they've achieved and how strong you have to be and how much resilience you need to have.

"Without actually witnessing it, it's hard to understand just what it takes, but I've been a sparring partner for Kid Galahad since I was 17, so it's great experience.

"By the end of 2016 I'll be challenging for titles. I'm ready now and I'm proving my worth after 15 fights unbeaten.

"I've been around the champions and not looked out of place.

"It's about doing everything at the right time now. Although I'm young, if you're good enough, you're ready.

"I'm confident of beating anyone in the featherweight division, all I need is an opportunity to do that.

"It's an exciting time ahead and I just want to prove my worth and make my mark."

■ Tickets for Gill's next fight are available at www.jordangill.com.

MARTIAL ARTS

Big medal haul for students

MEMBERS of the Mark Farnham Schools of Taekwondo achieved great results at the TAGB Midlands Championships at Kettering Sports Village.

The Ely students took part in pattern, sparring and team sparring events as well as black belt destruction competition.

James Munday (boys' blue belt sparring), Emily Mynott (ladies, green belt sparring) and Matthew Seymour (men's green belt sparring), led the way with gold medals.

Munday also came second in the team sparring event.

Other Ely medal winners were: Carrie Lord (2nd, girls' black belt patterns and 3rd, black belt team sparring),Anna Munday (2nd, girls' green belt team sparring and 3rd, girls' green belt sparring), Jamie Nicholls (2nd, men's red belt sparring), Chris O'Dell (2nd, men's red belt sparring), Amelia Spencer (2nd, girls' blue belt sparring), Genevieve Dean (3rd, girls' blue belt team sparring), Christian Dunham (3rd, boys' blue belt team sparring), Christopher Kwok (3rd, boys' blue belt team sparring).

IMPRESSIVE: The Ely students show off their medals

TABLE TENNIS

Soham on cloud nine in thumping success

SOHAM'S good run continued as they pulled off a 9-1 victory over NCI in Ely & District League, Division One.

The losing team fought hard throughout the match, with Kelvin Mitchell and Colin Taylor managing to take a set off Nathan Stewart, and Peter Moffatt won the first two sets against Clive Woollard before seeing his lead wiped out.

Moffatt took the positives from that encounter to earn NCI's only point of the fixture with a good win over Tony Everitt, but it was Soham's night.

Roger Fensom returned to form against Ellesmere I as he helped Elsworth I claim a 6-4 victory.

He bagged a singles maximum and then took the doubles with the aid of Paul Pilson as Joanne Pettitt and Rhys Davies were defeated.

Pilson beat both Pettitt and Rob Boyce to secure Elsworth's other points, while Davies scored two for Ellesmere and Pettitt and Boyce one each, both beating the unfortunate Peter Goatley.

In Division Two, Impington II were looking forward to hosting an Ely III side who they had beaten earlier in the season.

However, the Ely trio of Neil Weir, Howard Middleton and Fred Laband were intent on evening the scores.

The Imps' Michael Klein got off to a flying start against Weir and raced into a 2-0 lead, but he then lost the next three.

However, he was able to recover to see off Middleton in his next match and then get the better of Laband.

Margaret Chambers' first visit to the table was a comprehensive three-set win against Middleton, but the same spark was not there against Weir and Laband as she lost to both in three sets.

Mike Johnston did not get going at all, losing all his games in four sets.

In the doubles, Chambers and Johnston took the first leg against Weir and Laband, but that was to be their last and Ely ran out 7-3 winners.

Ely II whitewashed Ellesmere II when Ashley Rowe, Greg Ozog and Neil Abram completely overwhelmed Annette Ginn, Aldo Galea and David Wiseman.

In Division Three, Comrades IV only took two players to Elsworth III and they were punished for it in a 10-0 drubbing.

Pete Claringbold took both Michael Perkins and John Farnell to four legs, but, apart from that, Perkins, Farnell and Bill Knibbs had things all their own way.

Karen Byford beat Nathan Johnson and Simon Braschi saw off Thomas Pizey to give Ely IV a 2-1 lead over Ellesmere III.

But a maximum from Simon Johnson inspired his Ellesmere colleagues to recover and register an 8-2 victory.

GOLF

DRIVE-IN: New captains (left to right) James McLaughlin (juniors), Alan Todd (men) and Eve Mair (ladies)

New captains for Ely City

ELY City held their traditional drive-in to welcome the club's captains for 2016.

Former Ely goalkeeper Alan Todd has been named men's captain for the year.

Meanwhile, long-standing member Eve Mair is the new ladies' captain and county golfer James McLaughlin is junior captain, while Barry Carter is the new seniors captain.

DOMINOES

Littleport & District Domino League

Results: Plough B 9 Beet Club 9, Bowls Club 5 Plough A 13, Crown 6 Leisure B 12, Leisure A 12 West End 6, Hiams 12 Ex Serv D 6.

HAVE YOU GOT A SPORTS STORY?: Email your sports news and pictures to elysport@cambridge-news.co.uk. The deadline for submission is Tuesday mornings.

ELY SPORT

Arnold sets the pace to take time trial victory

Cycling

MARK Arnold set the fastest time as Ely & District Cycling Club/B&T Motor Repairs opened their new time trial season with the Hardriders TT.

A record field of 90 signed up for the event and it was CC Desireagear's Arnold who took the win over the 25-mile course.

Arnold, who was the last rider to set off, finished in 56min 21sec, which was just under a minute off the record on the BS19 course at Little Downham.

Ben Beynon, of Kassei CC Teknofuel, took second in a time of 58.49, while VC Baracchi's Liam Gentry came third after clocking 58.53.

Sarah Wells, of West Suffolk Wheelers, was the fastest female rider of the day, coming home in a time of 1:10.51, despite being one of the 10 riders who took a fall on the wet corners.

Matt Eley was the leading Ely & District rider after finishing eighth overall.

However, the host club were successful in the team competition, with Eley triumphing in that along with Dan Bromilow and John McAndrew.

WINNERS: Mark Arnold (left) and Sarah Wells took victories in Ely & District's first time trial of the year

Football

Impressive Soham too strong for Redbridge

A STRONG second-half display ensured Soham Town Rangers enjoyed a comfortable 4-1 win over lowly Redbridge at Julius Martin Lane in the Ryman League, North Division.

After a patchy first-half display, during which Soham took the lead through Ross Paterson before allowing the visitors to equalise, Rangers turned on the style after the break.

Cambridge United youth player Dylan Williams came to the fore after coming on for Craig Hammond, and there was no doubt in the end that the hosts were deserving winners.

Williams had been on the pitch for just a minute when Soham won a penalty after Paterson was brought down in the area.

Salim Relizani converted the spot kick to restore the Greens' lead.

The lead was extended in the 75th minute through Will Lawton, and the fourth goal arrived shortly afterwards when Williams threaded a pass to Ryan Sharman who smashed the ball home.

Joint-manager Robbie Nightingale was particularly pleased with the performance of on-loan United youngster Williams.

"He was outstanding," he said.

"We're trying to give him some experience of senior football. He played in the No 10 role just behind the striker and did really well."

Prowling Tigers go back to first place

Rugby union

ELY deposed Wymondham at the top of the Greene King IPA Eastern Counties One table by beating them 12-10 away.

There was no score in the first quarter as both teams were unable to convert any possession into points.

It was Wymondham who broke the deadlock though, after Ely had been penalised for offside.

In the next play after the restart, Ely were awarded a penalty after Wymondham hands in the ruck, and they kicked for the corner to set up a maul. Having been stopped on five metres, the ball was shipped to Mitchell Kennett, who held off his opposite number to touch down, and Matt McCarthy converted.

The Tigers started the second half defending their line, but when the Wymondham centre was brought down after a scrum, he got the offload away to his fellow centre to crash over for a converted try to make it 10-7 to the hosts.

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Ely were constantly breaking the opposition defensive line, but were unable to keep the ball in hand.

However, their troubles finally came to an end when quick ball reached winger Oliver Jones, who sprinted round the Wymondham full-back to get his first try for the club to make it 12-10.

Wymondham did have an attempt at the posts that fell short, and from another penalty, they went for the corner, but Ely's man-of-the-match Harry Rogerson stole the ball to allow the Tigers to clear their lines.

And Rogerson stole another line-out soon after to secure Ely's victory.

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